

Cheryl Rottmann

From: Melissa Marsh
Sent: Friday, September 9, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Cheryl Rottmann
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Resignation - August 24, 2022

See attached

From: Melissa Marsh
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:10:26 PM
To: Corey Haines <CoreyHaines@madison-heights.org>
Subject: FW: Letter of Resignation - August 24, 2022

FYI. We will be placing this on the upcoming City Council agenda to accept the resignation and declare the seat vacant.

From: ed cynowa <edcynowa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Roslyn Grafstein <RoslynGrafstein@Madison-Heights.org>; Mark Bliss <MarkBliss@Madison-Heights.org>; Sean Fleming <SeanFleming@Madison-Heights.org>; Toya Aaron <ToyaAaron@Madison-Heights.org>; Quinn Wright <QuinnWright@Madison-Heights.org>; Emily Rohrbach <EmilyRohrbach@Madison-Heights.org>; David Soltis <DavidSoltis@Madison-Heights.org>
Cc: Melissa Marsh <MelissaMarsh@Madison-Heights.org>; edcynowa@yahoo.com
Subject: Letter of Resignation - August 24, 2022

Dear Honorable Mayor Grafstein and Members of the City Council,

Please accept my resignation from the City of Madison Heights Crime Commission Board effective immediately. I have been honored to serve on the board from both 2019 - 2020, and again after its reincarnation on May 24, 2021. However, I no longer believe the Crime Commission Board is able to fulfill the entire scope of its purpose and function to the City Council or the residents of Madison Heights.

At our initial meeting of the new Crime Commission Board I was elected Chairperson for a period of one year, June 2021 to June 2022. I took this role very seriously and helped to create agendas that ensured common knowledge and understanding of our mission, goals and code of conduct as laid out by City Council. With that in mind, I initiated a motion to create and accept a strategic plan for the board. The board voted and accepted a plan that included:

- 1) Education
- 2) Communication
- 3) Community Collaboration

We held a brainstorming session for each of these three pillars and divided into smaller working groups to organize our thoughts and ideas, coming back to the group as a whole to suggest a starting point for the groups efforts.

The Board voted to begin our focus on our Mission Statement and how we will communicate with residents in order to educate, promote collaboration, hear concerns and build relationships between the PD and residents. We voted and accepted our written scope of purpose and function, as our Mission Statement. We then voted and agreed to utilize a Facebook page, community billboards and local newspapers to provide written communication with residents, including our Mission Statement, purpose & function. We also discussed making ourselves available at community programs and events, both hosted by the Crime Commission and other City groups.

However, at our most recent meeting, 8/23/22, the Chairperson reported that she had looked at the algorithms of the other city Boards facebook pages and did not feel an independent facebook page by the Crime Commission was

necessary. The Chair, and Chief of Police then advised the Crime Commission would be able give our written communications to the Police Department and City Clerk to put on thier Facebook pages. The group of 5 members present voted to this change in our plan, and before any discussion, it was passed, by a vote of 3 -2.

I expressed my concerns that the Crime Commission is not part of the Police Department, but works for the City Council and utilizes the Police Department/Chief as a resource and expertise as to thier needs and goals of thier department. I explained that without an independant form of communication with residents we are not likely to fulfill our scope that includes:

(1) The purpose and function of the city crime commission is to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council and to study crime in the city, to make recommendations for its prevention and elimination and to develop citizen cooperation in law enforcement.

(2) This purpose shall include periodic contacts by the commission with members of the community such as school,business and neighborhood leaders as well as police department personnel.

(3) The Commission shall serve to provide good communication and education within the community regarding law enforcement and crime prevention.

(4) The commission can recommend any changes to the City Council. The commission can also be available to receive citizen questions and complaints about crime.

(5) Advise on educational programs and events to promote crime prevention.

(6) To work with outside groups to build relationships between the Police Department and marginalized residents.

Without an indepenant source of communication, I do not believe the Crime Commision will build the trust and respect of the residents of Madison Heights. We are asking our community to be honest and transparent about their questions/concerns and issues, as related to crime in our community and relationship with law enforcement. If we are to communicate under the scruitny of the Police Department or City Clerk, we will not be perceived as an authentic entity appointed by City Council to perform our duties for growth and positive change.

I served in Federal Government and law enforcement for 28 years and have learned above all, communication, postitive reinforcement, transparncey and accountability are the only ways to effectively change behavior and attitudes.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served my community. I will continue to seek opportunities for future service.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lenart-Cynowa