

OAKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Proclamation

HONORING

CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, it is an honor to recognize the celebratory milestones of Oakland County's cities, villages and townships that deepen our collective roots to the past; and

WHEREAS, Madison Heights, marking its 70th anniversary as a city, resides on the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potowatomi, where the Red River and its many tributaries flowed. European settlement began around the 1830s with early land purchases made by George Dawson, Archibald Lamphere, and Elizabeth McBride, a widowed mother from Ireland; and

WHEREAS, despite nearly 80 percent of Oakland County still being used for farming at the time, the launch of the auto industry in Detroit in 1903 kicked off the area's transformation. The economy saw the greatest fluctuations with the occurrence and aftermath of World War I and World War II; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 1955, residents of what was then the east side of Royal Oak Township voted to approve a draft charter that ratified the incorporation of the City of Madison Heights, making it the 10th city government in south Oakland County. With just over seven square miles of area, it was the second largest city in this part of the county and the fifth highest in population; and

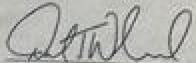
WHEREAS, today, Madison Heights is home to a diverse population of nearly 30,000 people, contributing to a dynamic and multifaceted workforce that represents a range of skills and industries, from manufacturing to services and technology. Residents enjoy a high quality of life, with access to a variety of recreational and outdoor activities through the city's numerous parks, hiking trails, and community centers, such as the Red Oaks Waterpark and Red Oaks Nature Center, that offer programs and amenities for all ages. With its heart aligned with history, Madison Heights will honor the life and memory of Gary R. McGillivray with the McGillivray Play Garden at Red Oaks County Park, formerly Ambassador Park. Mr. McGillivray devoted 15 years of service to Oakland County as a commissioner and as chair of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, and over 24 years to Madison Heights as mayor and city councilperson; and

WHEREAS, a special debt of gratitude is owed to organizations such as the Madison Heights Historical Commission for its role in curating, collecting and preserving the city's history. Established in 1984, the commission and its members also maintain the Madison Heights Historical Museum. Located within city hall, the museum's Heritage Rooms give visitors a glimpse into the past and the origins of what is now a modern, innovative and resilient community; and

WHEREAS, on the momentous occasion of its 70th anniversary, we join with the residents, business owners and government leaders of Madison Heights to celebrate seven decades of growth, change and prosperity. Further, we honor the enduring spirit of the city's founding peoples and those who served as stewards of the land before them.

NOW THEREFORE, David T. Woodward, Chair of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault, and the entire Oakland County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim special commendation to the City of Madison Heights. We recognize and commemorate the contributions and civic engagement of Madison Heights residents to the greater Oakland County community.

Attested on this 13th day of December 2025, in Pontiac, Michigan.


David T. Woodward, Chair
Oakland County Board of Commissioners




Ann Erickson Gault
County Commissioner, District 3

Proclamation #23148