

A RESOLUTION HONORING CO-OP MONTH – OCTOBER, 2013
WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 2, 2013

WHEREAS, cooperative businesses are a unique form of collaborative business which exist in large numbers throughout the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, 120 million US residents are members of 48,000 US co-ops and more than 700 million people are co-op members in over 100 countries; and

WHEREAS, Cooperative businesses in Michigan employ thousands of people and contribute billions of dollars to Michigan's economy every year, and remain in the state through good times and bad; and

WHEREAS, there are cooperative businesses in nearly every sector of the U.S. economy: in agriculture, finance, child care, energy, housing, food, education, retail, and more; and

WHEREAS, cooperatives in Michigan and the Washtenaw County area are local, self-help businesses that combine free-enterprise with social benefits to the community; and

WHEREAS, co-op members own, use, and run their businesses; and

WHEREAS, cooperative businesses operate by a set of principles which provide a model of responsiveness to the consumer and the community that all businesses and governments can emulate, and include voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, members economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training about the benefits and practices of cooperation, cooperation among cooperatives, concern for community; and

WHEREAS, the Ann Arbor community has been served by a large number, and wide variety of cooperative businesses for many years, including but not limited to, The Inter-Cooperative Council of the University of Michigan (student housing), University of Michigan Credit Union, Lake Trust Credit Union, Michigan Educational Credit Union, Dearborn Financial Credit Union, Stone School Cooperative Nursery, Dexter Nursery Co-op, First United Methodist Cooperative Nursery, People's Food Co-op and Ypsilanti Food Co-op, Student Buyer's Association (food, equipment, supplies), Farm Bureau (insurance), Midwest Organic Farmers' Co-op, Forest Hills Cooperative Housing, Arrowwood Hills Cooperative Housing, Pinelake Village Cooperative, St. David's Co-op Apartments

WHEREAS, October is Co-op Month, first so designated in 1948 by the Minnesota Association of Cooperatives, and celebrated by co-ops throughout the United States as a time to honor the service to their members and their communities provided by cooperative businesses;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes and honors the cooperative businesses that serve the Washtenaw County community, and encourages county residents to explore the benefits of participating in cooperative businesses.

Yousef Rabhi-District 8
Washtenaw County Commissioner
Chair of the Board