

Date: July 6, 2009

To: Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

From: Leah Gunn, County Commissioner

Discussion: I am troubled that certain non-profits in the community get automatic funding from our General Fund without having to go through a competitive process, as other agencies do. I have selected certain entities that I think ought to go through the process, and am suggesting that we remove their funding from this automatic allocation, and put it into the grant pool. I believe this is fair and right. We should not be treating some agencies in a "special" way.

For the Domestic Violence Project/Safe House and the Shelter Association, these are special because the buildings are owned and maintained by Washtenaw County, and it is in our own special interest to see that these programs continue, and that the buildings remain in good repair.

I have talked to some of you regarding this amendment, and it will not be on the agenda for July 8<sup>th</sup>, as I have not been able to discuss it with all of you. I am going to ask that we delete the budget item, "Allocations to Outside Agencies" from the BOC Agenda, and submit this revised amendment at the August meeting after you have seen it and discussed it.

Jessica suggested that she was not comfortable with the part about economic development, and I see her point. I should not mix "apples and oranges", so I am deleting that portion altogether. Thanks, Jessica, for pointing this out. The resolution now deals only with Human Service Non-Profits.

**RESOLUTION TO REALLOCATE SOME OF THE OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING TO BOOST THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED FOR CHILDREN'S WELL BEING AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS.**

WHEREAS Washtenaw County has historically been able to allocate \$1,000,000 to local non-profits for Children's Well-Being and Human Services; and

WHEREAS the 2010-2011 Budget Resolution, Phase 1, passed on June 3 with a 20% reduction in this allocation; and

WHEREAS the economic situation in Washtenaw County is grave, with many people out of work, and major businesses, such as Pfizer and GM, leaving our county, thus reducing tax revenues and heightening unemployment; and

WHEREAS the local non-profits in Washtenaw County are finding themselves pushed to the limit in order to serve the ever-growing needs of our residents,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Commissioners amend the Phase I Budget Resolution to reflect the following:

Blueprint for Aging: to grant pool\* (\$20,000)

\*"Grant pool" is defined as the allocations made to outside agencies made through the grant process, as described in the resolution from Community Development passed at the June 3 Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Supportive Housing Development: Keep allocation at \$200,000 but change to "yes" to Community Development

Dispute Resolution Center: we give them free rent; to grant pool. (\$24,000)

Family Learning Institute: to grant pool (\$12,000)

Legal Resource Center: we provide them with free rent; to grant pool. (\$4,000)

Michigan Tenant Counseling: to grant pool (\$13,800)

NAAPID: to grant pool (\$8,000)

Neutral Zone: to grant pool (\$20,000)

Project Grow: to grant pool (\$3,600)

R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program): to grant pool (\$9,600)

S.E.M. (Southeastern Michigan) Legal Services: to grant pool (\$60,000)

Success By Six: to grant pool (\$40,000)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount of money saved by not allocating to these agencies directly (\$215,000) be added to the \$800,000 funding, thus restoring it to the \$1,000,000 as before, and adding an additional \$15,000 for more grants.