

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION #09055

BY: Commissioners Helaine Zack, Bradford Jacobsen, Marcia Gershenson

IN RE: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OAKLAND COUNTY’S “SILVER TSUNAMI” – OUR AGING POPULATION

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS the first Baby Boomers, who were born between 1946 and 1964, began qualifying for Social Security retirement benefits in 2008. This has been referred to as the “Silver Tsunami” that is about to hit Oakland County; and

WHEREAS it is projected that Oakland County will experience an unprecedented older adult population growth, and the number of seniors will double by 2030; and

WHEREAS it is anticipated that by 2020, 29 of Oakland County’s 61 communities will have more seniors over age 65 than school-age children; and

WHEREAS surveys indicate that 59% of Baby Boomers plan to relocate in their retirement years. This could be a devastating loss to local communities, Oakland County, our region, and the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median annual income for an Oakland County householder age 65 and older in 2007 was \$40,598, most of which is income from Social Security, a pension, or investment earnings that are imported into our local economy; and on average seniors spent 92% of this \$5.5 billion; and

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon community leaders to be proactive in addressing this impending senior population boom by being prepared to provide services and create conditions that will encourage older adults to remain in and relocate to Oakland County and our region; and

WHEREAS the directors of Oakland County agencies that provide senior services, along with business, community and government leaders, have agreed there is a need to identify current and future older adult needs and unmet needs, evaluate the effectiveness of the existing aging services delivery system, and create a vision of healthy aging Oakland County in the future; and

WHEREAS Oakland County agencies and business leaders, with leadership from the Aging and the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, and United Way of Southeastern Michigan, are willing to work in a collaborative manner to produce a strategic plan to identify current and future senior needs and unmet needs, and create a vision for healthy and prosperous aging for Oakland County with the input of County Commissioners, consumers, elected officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS such a plan can be produced without a cost to Oakland County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners endorses the efforts of aging service organizations, with consumers, elected officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders, to develop a strength and needs assessment of the Oakland County Aging population which includes findings, conclusions, and consensus recommendations for the enhancement of the business climate, quality of life, and health and social services safety net for older Oakland County residents, as well as support services for their families and caregivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and any recommendations of the Needs Assessment and Collaborative Strategic Plan for Oakland County’s “Silver Tsunami” – Our Aging Population shall be reported to the General Government Committee and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Clerk is requested to forward copies of this adopted resolution to County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, George Miller (Director of Oakland County’s Health and Human Services Department), the Area Agency on Aging, the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency and United Way.

Chairperson, we move the adoption of the above-referenced resolution.

HELAINÉ ZACK, BRADFORD JACOBSEN,
DAVID COULTER, JIM NASH, STEVEN
SCHWARTZ, GARY MCGILLIVRAY, DAVID
POTTS, KIM CAPELLO, TOM MIDDLETON,
MATTIE HATCHETT, MARCIA GERSHENSON,
DAVE WOODWARD, TIM GREIMEL, JANET
JACKSON, JEFF POTTER, MICHAEL
GINGELL, BILL BULLARD