

CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022  
IN CITY HALL

1. Mayor Michael C. Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Mayor Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk, gave the Invocation.
3. Council Members present at roll call: Deanna Koski, Michael V. Radtke Jr., Maria G. Schmidt, Liz Sierawski, Michael C. Taylor, Henry Yanez, Barbara A. Ziarko.  
  
Also Present: Mark Vanderpool, City Manager; Marc D. Kaszubski, City Attorney; Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk; Carol Sobosky, Recording Secretary.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
Moved by Koski, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to approve the Agenda as presented.  
  
Yes: All. The motion carried.
5. **PRESENTATIONS**
  - A. Mayor Taylor stated this is a special meeting to recognize and congratulate recipients of scholarships awarded through the 2022 Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation Scholarship Program. He congratulated all the students for all they have done during their high school careers. He introduced the Sterling Heights Community Foundation President Dr. Martin Brown.  
  
Dr. Martin Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting this evening. He explained the Foundation was established in 1991 to strengthen the quality of life in Sterling Heights for the residents by improving cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities. The Foundation's annual Scholarship Program is one of the most important and popular programs of their mission, and they are thankful to their sponsoring partners who continue to demonstrate their passion for education and community outreach each year through their support of this scholarship program. He introduced Mr. Karl Oskoian, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Mr. Karl Oskoian thanked the City for being able to share this Scholarship program with the community. This is their twenty-fourth annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony to area students pursuing degrees in higher education and vocational training. The Foundation thrives to achieve its mission by continually initiating and implementing projects that reach a wide segment of the community, and by helping to foster a communitywide philanthropic environment through partnership and collaboration with area businesses, companies, organizations, and other non-profit organizations. Tonight, their eleven scholarship partners are awarding a total of twenty-three scholarships worth a total of \$26,000. He stated the nine scholarship sponsors are BAE Systems, General Dynamics Land Systems, Macomb County Chiropractic Association, Former Mayor Richard J. Notte Public Service Endowment, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Endowment, Ronald Himmler Science Scholarship, Rotary Club of Sterling Heights, Selfridge ANG/Base Community Council, the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation, the Sterling Heights City Manager Public Management Scholarship, Vibe Credit Union, and Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons. He stressed they are fortunate to have individuals and companies like their scholarship partners who come forward annually and make a difference in the lives of so many outstanding students by helping them prepare for their professional careers. He stated they started awarding scholarships in 1999, and with this evening's awards, they will have presented scholarships totaling \$458,000 to 505 area students pursuing degrees in general studies, technical training programs, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health care and public service fields. He noted each year the Foundation receives hundreds of scholarship applications, and they are awarded based upon their sponsors unique requirements, which include academic performance, as well as leadership, community service, career plans and need.

Mr. Oskoian introduced their Foundation Scholarship Chair, Ngoc Do.

Sterling Heights Community Foundation Scholarship Chair Ngoc Do, on behalf of their Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee, congratulated each of the

twenty-three students being honored this evening. She noted the scholarship sponsors set very demanding requirements, and those being awarded the scholarships met or exceeded those requirements. They have all achieved very high grade point averages, participated in many school and community activities, often taking on leadership roles, expressed a strong desire to continue their education and set high expectations for themselves. They have made their families proud of them, as well as the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation directors.

Mr. Oskoian proceeded throughout the meeting to introduce each of the award presenters and provide a little information about them. Each award presenter, in addition to presenting the scholarships to the recipients, also provided some information on grade point averages, achievements and future plans of each recipient.

Mr. Oskoian stated their first scholarship this evening is BAE Systems, and he invited Scott Davis, Vice-President and General Manager, and Angie Lommen, Director of Bradley and Sustainment at BAE Systems, Inc., to make the presentation.

Mr. Scott Davis, Vice-President of Programs for BAE Systems, stated BAE Systems has been a scholarship sponsor for nine years and is awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing undergraduate degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math). He congratulated and presented the two scholarships on behalf of BAE Systems to Deema Bunni (International Academy East / U of M) and Owen Sharnas (who will be attending The Citadel, the Military College in South Carolina). Mr. Davis also provided information on grade point averages, achievements, and future plans of the recipients.

Mr. Oskoian stated the Sterling Heights Community Foundation celebrates a long relationship with General Dynamics Land Systems, who has been a supporter of the scholarship program since 1999. On behalf of General Dynamics, he presented the two \$1,000 scholarships to Fadie Arabo (International Academy in Bloomfield Hills) and Sameh Ali Khan (Stevenson High

School), who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in engineering. He provided information on grade point averages, achievements, and future plans of the recipients. He added that he is very proud of these awards, noting he retired from General Dynamics after thirty-five years of service there and was responsible for funding the scholarships in perpetuity during his years with the corporation.

Dr. Marty Brown, President of Macomb County Chiropractic Association, stated their organization has raised funds to contribute five \$1,000 scholarships. He explained that chiropractic care is a natural approach to health, and he provided some details of the type of care they provide. He announced the names of their scholarship recipients and presented the scholarships to: Steele Butzin (Tiffin University in Ohio); Adriell Desero (Palmer College in Davenport, Ohio), whose dad accepted since she is at school and unable to attend this evening; Rachel Fiori (Life University in Georgia), whose mom accepted since she is at school and unable to attend this evening; Erica Geml (Palmer College in Florida), whose dad accepted since she is at school and unable to attend this evening; and Brianna Mosher (EMU / D'Youville University in Buffalo, New York). Dr. Brown also provided information on grade point averages, achievements, and future plans of the recipients.

Mayor Taylor stated he will be presenting the Former Mayor Richard J. Notte Public Service Endowment Fund scholarship of \$1,000 awarded to a Sterling Heights college student pursuing a degree in public service. He explained that Richard Notte's son, Michael Notte, is generally present to make this presentation, but unfortunately due to his travel schedule, he was unable to be here today. He presented the scholarship to Alexa Clampitt (Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies / Ohio Northern University). Mayor Taylor spoke of Mayor Notte's history with Sterling Heights, serving as Mayor for over twenty years and on City Council for over thirty years. He stated he was honored to serve with Mayor Notte, who was a dedicated public servant. Mayor Taylor

provided information on Alexa's grade point average, achievements, and her future plans.

Mr. Oskoian introduced a new scholarship this year, the Martin Luther King Jr. Endowment scholarship, awarding one \$1,000 scholarship to a Sterling Heights high school student pursuing a college degree in any curriculum. He presented the 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship to Jadelena Trvong (Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies), whose dad accepted the scholarship for her in her absence. Mr. Oskoian provided information on Jadelena's grade point average, achievements, and her future plans.

Mr. Oskoian stated the next scholarships to be awarded are the Ronald Himmler Science scholarships, funded by Mr. Ronald Himmler. He stated that Mr. Himmler is awarding three \$2,000 scholarships to Sterling Heights high school students pursuing a college or vocational degree in a science-related field. He invited Mr. Himmler to make the presentations.

Mr. Ronald Himmler explained he established the Ronald Himmler Science scholarships a couple of years ago, but Covid got in the way. These are awarded to students who are pursuing futures in science and engineering. He presented the scholarships to: Lily Medley (Henry Ford II High School), who was unable to attend this evening due to a convocation being held this evening at Henry Ford II High School, where all of the recipients are being awarded there as well; Mas Salman (Henry Ford II High School), who was not present for the same reason; and Raegan Spear (Henry Ford II High School), whose uncle accepted in her absence. He provided information on grade point averages, achievements, and future plans of the recipients.

Mr. Oskoian explained that the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation managed thirty-two endowment funds in a very short time, and Ronald Himmler's endowment fund has become the highest valued endowment fund they have. He stressed they need more people who care about their community and their youth like Mr. Himmler.

Dr. Brown stated that Mr. Himmler's endowment fund, in addition to pass-through from his own money, he has donated over \$100,000 to permanently endowed funds, so his legacy will live on in the future to grant these scholarships in perpetuity. He noted the majority of their money is locked up and cannot be touched, and they have well over \$1 million tied up, and of that amount, approximately \$150,000 is accessible for immediate projects. He stressed they are so pleased and proud of people like Mr. Himmler who step up to that role.

Dr. Brown stated that in his capacity as a Board member and three-time president of the Rotary Club of Sterling Heights, he is pleased to present the two \$1,000 scholarship awards for the Rotary Club. He provided some history on Rotary International, adding that the Rotary Club of Sterling Heights was founded in 1969, with their primary goal to make the world a better place, both through a wide variety of community service projects, locally and internationally. They serve autistic and special needs children, promote literacy, and provide holiday food baskets for the needy. He outlined many of their other projects. He welcomed everyone to attend a Rotary Club lunch meeting held at Ike's Restaurant on Van Dyke in Sterling Heights, advising those interested to call and reserve the dates in advance. He explained the Rotary scholarships are for qualifying Sterling Heights students devoted to community service, and the 2022 scholarships were awarded to Shaelyn Minor (Henry Ford II High School), who is also at the Henry Ford II Convocation this evening; and Autrina Saeidi (Stevenson High School). He provided information on grade point averages, achievements, and future plans of the recipients.

Mr. Oskoian explained the next award is from Selfridge ANG/Base Community Council, and they are awarding one \$1,000 scholarship to a student of a military parent attached to Selfridge ANG/Base. He explained that, as a member of the Selfridge ANG/Base Community Council, it is his honor to present this award this evening. He explained the Selfridge ANG/Base Community Council is a civilian support group for military personnel and military families who are attached to the Selfridge ANG/Base. Membership consists of over four hundred local

business and professional people with a patriotic dedication to military personnel and families, and to honor and demonstrate the appreciation for the many sacrifices that the families make. He presented the \$1,000 scholarship to Alexander Kitto (Lutheran High School North), and he provided information on Alexander's grade point average, achievements, and future plans.

Mr. Oskoian stated the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation will be awarding three \$1,000 scholarships, and he invited Scholarship Chairperson Ngoc Do to present the scholarships.

Ms. Do awarded the three \$1,000 scholarships on behalf of the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation to: Nathan Boos (Boos Homeschool), whose mom accepted the award in his absence; Filopatir Gabriel (Henry Ford II High School), who was unable to attend due to his participation this evening at the Henry Ford II Convocation; and Paige Westergard (Regina High School). She provided information on the recipient's grade point averages, achievements, and future plans.

Mr. Oskoian announced that the next scholarship award comes from the Sterling Heights City Manager Public Management scholarship, and the \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Sterling Heights area high school senior or current college student pursuing a degree in public administration. He invited Sterling Heights City Manager Mark Vanderpool to present this scholarship.

Mr. Vanderpool stated he is pleased to present this scholarship, and he explained the reason behind it. He stated that professional public management is inherently represented in their form of government, known as a "council-manager" form of government. This type of government is used in sixty percent of all cities across the country with populations over 100,000. Over 4,000 cities have this form of government, based off of the corporate model, and popular internationally as well. He explained that professional public management degrees extend beyond City Managers and include Finance Directors, Library Directors, Police Chiefs, Planners, Chiefs of Staff, state and federal positions, diplomats, etc. He stated the field is very rewarding, but the challenges are to

make sure there is sufficient interest among younger generations. The scholarship helps achieve that objective, and he stated he is pleased to present the \$1,000 scholarship to Max Rehn (Stevenson High School). He provided information on Max's grade point average, achievements, and future plans.

Ms. Do, on behalf of Vibe Credit Union, explained that their non-profit credit union started over eight-six years ago with ten employees. They now assist over seven thousand members, \$1 billion in assets, and sixteen branches across southeast Michigan. They are honored to continue their support of this scholarship program and are awarding the 2022 scholarship to Christian Allen (Henry Ford II High School), who was unable to attend this evening due to the Henry Ford II Convocation. She provided information on Christian's grade point average, achievements, and future plans.

Mr. Oskoian stated their final scholarship award this evening is from a long-time friend and supporter of the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation, Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons. They are awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a Sterling Heights area high school senior pursuing a college degree in any curriculum. He presented the scholarship to Sarah Friedmann (Bishop Foley Catholic High School), who was unable to attend this evening. He provided information on the Sarah's grade point average, achievements, and future plans.

Mr. Oskoian stated that this concludes the scholarship awards this evening, and he congratulated all scholarship award recipients. A group photo was to be taken of all the scholarship recipients with City Council members following adjournment of this meeting.

Motion by Sierawski, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to recognize and congratulate the 2022 recipients of scholarships awarded through the Sterling Heights Area Community Foundation Scholarship Program and to thank partners BAE Systems, General Dynamics Land Systems, Macomb County Chiropractic Association, The Family of Richard J. Notte, Sterling Heights City Manager, Ronald Himmler, Rotary Club of Sterling Heights, Selfridge/ANG Base

Community Council, Vibe Credit Union, and Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons for their continuing generosity and support.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski offered her congratulations to all the scholarship recipients, and she congratulated their parents for raising such wonderful young men and women. She stated they are honored that these young people are part of this community, and she urged them to go out and do great things.

Mayor Taylor congratulated all the award recipients and thanked all who attended this evening.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

There were no comments from citizens.

7. **ADJOURN**

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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MELANIE D. RYSKA, City Clerk