



**CITY OF YPSILANTI**  
**REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**  
[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. November 14, 2024 Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- B. Discrimination Complaints Process - Ordinance Chapter 58, Article II, Section 58 - 67  
[Ordinance can be found here](#)

1. Nicole Wilmer Complaint - Response from City Attorney Barr
2. Resident Complaint Form
3. Discrimination Complaint Tracking System - Administered by City Attorney - reported to HRC Commission by Clerk's Office

- C. Working Subcommittee Meeting Structure

1. Discuss top priorities of:
  - Fair Chance Housing - for those who have a history of interaction with the criminal justice system
  - Discrimination and Inequality Community Forum Series - Focused on (1) Mental Health, (2) Housing and (3) Public Safety in regard to Discrimination
  - Language around Protected Classes in Discrimination Ordinance, [Chapter 58, Article III. - DISCRIMINATION](#)

- D. Tabled Discussion Re: Amending Human Relations Commission Bylaws Article V, Sec. 2

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- E. Election of Commission Chair
- F. Election of Commission Vice Chair
- G. Adopt/Readopt Rules & Regulations and Bylaws
- H. Discussion of Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to create local restrictions on funds use for mental health and non-traditional forms of public safety

[Millage information can be found here](#)

- 1. Resolution Requesting that Millage Funds be spent on Mental Health and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety - Brought forth by Chair Layton
- I. Discussion of Chapter 58 Discrimination Ordinance: Regarding Personal Liability for Staff/Council/Commissioners

[Ordinance can be found here](#)

- 1. Resolution that Inaction is Discriminatory - Brought forth by Chair Layton

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

## **X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

- J. Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda.



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING**  
**6:00 PM - Thursday, November 14, 2024**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Commissioner Doulos  
Commissioner Harper  
Commissioner Jackson (Zoom- arrived at 6:13 pm)  
Commissioner Layton (Chair)  
Commissioner House (Vice-Chair)  
Commissioner Munro  
Commissioner Myers  
Commissioner St. John

Absent:

None

Roll call was taken by Chair Layton.

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. October 17, 2024 Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes**

Commissioner Harper moved to Amend the October 17, 2024 Minutes by removing Item B, 3 from Section VII. Commissioner Doulos seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, St. John, Myers

No: (1) Munroe

Absent: (1) Jackson

PASSED

Commissioner House moved to Amend the October 17, 2024 Minutes by changing Commissioner Monroe's attendance status to "absent" instead of "present". Commissioner Doulos seconded the motion.

Yes: (4) House, Layton, Doulos, Harper

No: (3) Munroe, Myers, St. John

Absent: (1) Jackson

\*Please Note:

The Clerk's Office was able to verify that Commissioner Munro was in attendance at the October 17, 2024 meeting by remote access/Zoom, under the participant's name of Alexander Munro, as the Commissioner was using her son's Zoom account.

Commissioner Myers moved to Approve the October 17, 2024 Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner St. John seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Layton, Munroe, Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House,

No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
PASSED

Commissioner Jackson arrived by remote access/zoom at 6:13 pm but was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

One member of the public made comments.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Human Relations Commission Annual Report**

2024 Annual report was submitted 12/29/2024 by Chair Layton to the Clerk's Office for submittal to City Council.

**B. 2025 HRC Calendar**

Commissioner St. John moved to Approve the 2025 HRC Calendar with meetings held every third Thursday of the month, excluding December. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers, St. John  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None

PASSED

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**C. Community Forum Series**

- o **Discussion of Scope**
- o **Discussion of completing a community forum series without YPAC**
- o **Vote for Resolution for Community Forum Series for HRC**

Commissioner Harper moved to Approve a Discrimination and Inequity Community Forum Series, focused on Public Health, Housing and Safety in regard to Discrimination. Commissioner St. John seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers, St. John, Doulos  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None

PASSED

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**D. Subcommittees**

- o **Establish meeting dates & times**
- o **Create process to invite community participants to meetings**
- o **Assign tasks to subcommittees**

Commissioner Doulos moved to Approve Layton, Jackson and St. John as the liaisons for the Discrimination and Inequity Community Forum Series, focused on Public Health, Housing and Safety in regard to Discrimination. Commissioner St. John seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Munroe, Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None

P A S S E D

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**E. Amend HRC Bylaws**

- o **Article V, Section 1**
- o **Article V, Section 2**
- o **Article V, Section 4**

Human Relations Commissioners discussed amending HRC Bylaws, Article V, Section 1, 2 and 4.

Article V, Section 1: This bylaw cannot be changed by HRC Commissioners. While HRC is not required by the state of Michigan to adhere to Open Meeting Act (OMA), the City of Ypsilanti City Council requires that all boards and commissions be under the requirements of OMA. This can be viewed being discussed in the July 18, 2024 HRC meeting by City Manager, Andrew Hellenga. This can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Q4HF1JNwR2I?si=sNSgni2pJ1kRvUIS> (time stamp: 7:53)

Article V, Section 2: It was determined that the Commissioners wanted to table the discussion on amending Article V, Section 2.

Commissioner Harper moved to amend Article V, Section 4 to include "Commissioner Feedback", after Public Comment on the agenda. Myers seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
P A S S E D

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

Notice is required to change bylaws, and notice will be given for the next meeting agenda.

#### **F. Discrimination Complaints**

- o **Review resident Sigrid Melvin's complaint submitted during City Council public comment October 1, 2024**
- o **Review resident Nicole Wimer's complaint submitted to City Attorney in October 2024 - Review City Attorney's memo response to Wimer's complaint**
- o **Discuss a discrimination complaint form for City of Ypsilanti Form Center**
- o **Total submissions of complaints to City Attorney since 2021**

Harper moved to Table discuss on a discrimination complaint form for City of Ypsilanti Form Center. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
PASSED

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

Harper moved to request Total submissions of complaints to City Attorney since 2021 as presented. Myers seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (0) NONE  
PASSED

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

Commissioners requested the total submissions of complaints to City Attorney since 2021:  
Per City Attorney Staff, as of 1/8/2024:

There have been zero (0) confirmed housing complaints made in the past 21 years.  
There have been zero (0) confirmed housing complaints made since the inception of the new HRC tracking system by the city attorney's office.

The tracking system details include: Case name, File number, Subject matter, Year, Outcome and Venue

There were three (3) instances of discrimination or reverse discrimination since 2021.

Each one was submitted to the CA in a different manner (lawsuit, written complaint, and unfiled lawsuit).  
Only one (1) was submitted by the person making a written complaint, others were litigation related.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

One member of the public made comments.

**IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

St John moved to EXTEND the meeting to 8:15 pm. Myers seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers

No: (0) None

Absent: (0) None

PASSED

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

1. Discuss and amend Article V, Section 2
2. Discuss a discrimination complaint form for City of Ypsilanti Form Center
3. Resolution regarding Inaction is Discriminatory
4. Resolution regarding Council Member McLean.

**X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

## Sec. 58-67. - Information and investigation.

- (a) All persons claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory or unfair practice may, by themselves or by counsel, file with the city attorney a verified, written complaint which shall state the details, name and address of the person or entity alleged to have committed the discriminatory or unfair practice.
- (b) After the filing of a verified complaint, a true copy shall be served within ten days by certified mail on the person against whom the complaint [is] filed, by the complainant.
- (c) The city attorney shall refer this complaint to appropriate city departmental units and agencies for

investigation as to the basis of the complaint.

- (d) After sufficient review and determination, the city attorney shall issue a written opinion to the human relations commission whether probable cause exists to believe a discriminatory practice or practices occurred as alleged by the complainant.
- (e) For an investigation, a person may be required to produce books, papers, records or other documents that may be relevant to a violation or alleged violations of this article. If such person does not comply with such request, the city attorney may apply to county circuit court for an order requiring production of such materials.

(f)

If it is determined that no probable cause exists, the city attorney shall notify the complainant and respondent in writing of the dismissal of the complaint.

- (g) All complaints received by the human relations commission shall retained for three years.

(Ord. No. 865, § VII, 12-16-1997; Ord. No. 947, 9-18-2001; Ord. No. 1279, § 1, 1-24-2017; Ord. No. 1368, 10-20-2020)

Sec. 58-68. - Conciliation agreements and mediation.

- (a) If probable cause has been determined, the human relations commission shall notify the complainant and respondent of mediation. Participation in mediation is voluntary, and either party may reject the offer to mediate. If the mediation request

is accepted, the notice shall inform the parties of the identity of the mediator and shall request a time for the mediation to occur, no later than 45 days from the date probable cause was determined. Mediation shall be an informal process conducted by the human relations commission in accordance with the procedures established by the city council.

(b) Mediation sessions are not open to the public, but any resolution of the dispute reached through mediation shall not be final until released by the human relations commission. Violations of such agreements shall be violations of this article.

(Ord. No. 865, § VIII, 12-16-1997; Ord. No. 1279, § 1, 1-24-2017; Ord. No. 1368, 10-20-2020)

## Sec. 58-69. - Injunctions.

Nothing in this article shall prohibit an aggrieved person from commencing civil action to obtain injunctive relief to prevent discrimination prohibited by this article.

(Ord. No. 865, § IX, 12-16-1997; Ord. No. 1279, § 1, 1-24-2017; Ord. No. 1368, 10-20-2020)



**Barr,  
Anhut &  
Associates, P.C.**  
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John M. Barr

Jesse O'Jack ~ Of Counsel  
Tobias J. Lipsky ~ Of Counsel  
Randolph T. Barker ~ Of Counsel  
Jennifer A. Merritt ~ Legal Assistant

October 23, 2024

Nicole Wimer  
[Nwimer2732@gmail.com](mailto:Nwimer2732@gmail.com)

Dear Nicole Wimer:

RE: Subject Discrimination Complaint  
Our File No. 131 HRC  
Discrimination complaint No. 26

This letter is in response to your recent Formal Grievance regarding alleged Discriminatory Language in Resolution 2024-229 and resolution author, City Councilmember Patric McLean (Ward 2), sent to me by email. Councilmember McLean drafted resolution 2024-229 and presented it to City Council for consideration in his capacity as a Ypsilanti Councilmember.

Your Grievance and Complaint alleges:

***Discriminatory Language:***

*The resolution targets a "subsection of the population," which includes individuals who are members of protected classes under the City's ordinance, such as those based on race, disability, income status, and more. The City's Human Relations Ordinance defines discrimination...*

***Violation of Civil Rights:***

*The language used in the resolution risks justifying civil rights violations by blaming individuals from protected classes, including people experiencing homelessness, those with mental health conditions, and individuals who rely on harm reduction services for known systemic failures. By unfairly associating these populations with crime and safety issues, the resolution may lead to discriminatory practices that disproportionately target marginalized people, rather than addressing the root causes of systemic issues like housing insecurity, lack of mental health resources, and problematic substance use patterns.*



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***Council Members' Accountability and Fitness for Office:***

*The Council Members who introduced this resolution should be held accountable for promoting language that is harmful, discriminatory, and at odds with the values of equity and inclusion. I am formally requesting that the City conduct an investigation into the Council Members responsible for drafting and introducing this resolution, assessing their actions and whether they are fit to continue holding public office. Their willingness to promote and support such harmful language raises concerns about their ability to represent the diverse interests of Ypsilanti's residents fairly, particularly those of vulnerable and marginalized populations.*

***Request for Investigation:***

- I request that the City of Ypsilanti task the Human Relations Commission to investigate the discriminatory nature of Resolution 229 and determine whether it violates any laws, ordinances, or civil rights protections.*
- I request that the city examine whether the council member(s) who authored this resolution, published on behalf of the city, acted in violation of their duties to uphold the civil rights and protections of all Ypsilanti residents.*
- I request that the fitness of this council member(s) for public office be reviewed, based on their involvement in introducing and supporting a resolution that could lead to discrimination and harm against protected class residents.*

Your Grievance and Complaint is denied for the following reasons:

Resolution 2024-229 was drafted and presented to Ypsilanti City Council by Councilmember McLean in response to alleged criminal and disruptive behavior occurring in the downtown business area of Ypsilanti. Home owners, residents and business owners complained of a group of allegedly underserved people dealing drugs in the open, defecating and urination in public, open sex acts, litter of condoms and needles on the streets, stealing from shop owners and harassing and threatening of pedestrians.

Your Grievance and Complaint were not verified as required by the ordinance.

Resolution 2024-229 does not single out any protected class but refers to a "subsection of the population" and a "vulnerable population in the downtown core." The fact that a group may (or may not) have a protected class within it does not exempt it from good behavior, following state laws and city ordinances by claiming discrimination.



**Barr,  
Anhut &  
Associates, P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Being in a protected class does not exempt one from facing the consequences for one's actions or from criminal behavior.

A call to action aimed at addressing criminal activity and disruptive behavior, even if it intersects with civil rights issues, does not constitute discrimination.


Federal law and the Ypsilanti discrimination ordinance expressly exempts and grants immunity for claims such as this claim to the mayor and council members.

The United States Supreme Court held in *Bogan et al. v. Scott-Harris*, 523 U.S. 44, 118 S.Ct. 966, 140 L.Ed.2d 79 (1998) that local legislators (i.e. members of a city council and the city mayor) have absolute immunity from personal liability under 42 U.S.C. §1983 ("§1983" actions) for actions taken in their official capacity.

The Ypsilanti discrimination ordinance 58-77 grants absolute immunity concerning the actions of the mayor and council members for the performance of their duties under the ordinance.

The Grievance and Complaint do not present probable cause or a prima facie case; therefore, it must be dismissed without requiring further investigation or action.

Sincerely yours,

  
John M. Barr  
Ypsilanti City Attorney





## Affirmation

I,  
do hereby affirm that the foregoing information provided by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false, misleading, or untrue statements, accusations or allegations, herein made by me, either orally or in writing, to any person(s) investigating this complaint, may subject me to civil and/or criminal prosecution.

I realize that it may become necessary, during the investigation of this complaint for me to meet with a member of City Administration to discuss this complaint, either in the presence or absence of any accused department member(s) at the discretion of the department. I hereby accept the premise that if any action is initiated through court or administrative hearing, as a result of my complaint, my testimony before these hearings may be required. I hereby agree to make myself available to the aforementioned court or administrative hearing when requested to do so.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

in the City of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw.

Witness Signature (*NOTARY NOT REQUIRED*)

Witness Signature (*NOTARY NOT REQUIRED*)



**For City Use Only**

<b>Name of Initial Reviewer of Complaint</b>	<b>Date of Review</b>
<b>Recommendation Signature</b>	

**To be completed by investigator of complaint:**

<b>Type of Complaint</b>	<b>Date Received</b>
<b>Date Investigation Was Initiated</b>	
<b>Date Investigation was Completed</b>	
<b>Dated of Filing Final Report</b>	
<b>Determination</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Substantiated <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded <input type="checkbox"/> Inconclusive	
<b>Investigators Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Final Determination:**

Substantiated       Unfounded       Inconclusive

**Action taken:**

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**Comments:**

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**Complainant Notified of Disposition by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

**Department Notified of Disposition by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

**City Manager Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_

## TITLE VI – COMPLAINT FORM

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that, "No person in the United States shall on the basis of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or otherwise be submitted to discrimination in any program, service, or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

This form may be used to file a complaint with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. **If you need assistance completing this form due to a physical impairment or other reasons, please contact us by phone at (517) 373-0980 or via FAX (517) 335-8841 or TDD/TTY through the Michigan Relay Center at (800) 649-3777.**

**Only the complainant or the complainant's designated representative should complete this form.**

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

HOME TELEPHONE

WORK TELEPHONE

FAX

**Individual(s) discriminated against, if different from above (use additional page(s) if necessary):**

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

HOME TELEPHONE NO.

WORK TELEPHONE NO.

FAX NO.

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INDIVIDUAL(S) INDICATED ABOVE

**Name of Agency and department or program that discriminated:**

AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT NAME

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL (if known)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE NO.

FAX NO.

**Date(s) of alleged discrimination:**

DATE DISCRIMINATION BEGAN

LAST OR MOST RECENT DATE OF DISCRIMINATION





# CITY OF YPSILANTI

## Citizens/Police Complaint Form

Use this form to file a complaint against an Ypsilanti Police Department officer or employee.

The City of Ypsilanti respects your privacy and will not distribute your personal information except as necessary to resolve your request or complaint. However, you should be aware that this information is subject to the State of Michigan's public disclosure laws and may be disclosed upon request.

You are encouraged to provide as much information as possible. It is helpful to the investigators to be able to follow up on information or speak to people involved in the incident to gather evidence. However, if you would like to submit a complaint anonymously, you may omit your identifying information on this form.

Please submit this complaint to any of the following: Ypsilanti City Clerk or Manager, Ypsilanti Police Department, Ypsilanti City Attorney, Ypsilanti City Hall Drop Box, or online. Once submitted, this form will be sent to the Ypsilanti City Manager, the Ypsilanti Police Department Chief, and the Ypsilanti City Attorney to be investigated.

Within seven days you will receive confirmation of receipt, accompanied with a copy of the complaint, unless submitted anonymously. This complaint will be investigated and findings of the investigation completed within 30 days unless notice is given that more time is needed for the investigation. **For any further information please contact the City Clerk's Office (734) 483-1100**

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT:

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Date (month/day/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM

Name of YPD Officer/Employee (if Known): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Witnesses or Others Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ypsilanti Police Department Report/Incident Number if known or applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

### STATEMENT/DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

Do you have photographs or video relevant to this incident?    No    Photos    Video

Please describe the incident, including any injuries sustained.




ALLEN J. PHILBRICK  
JAMES A. SCHRIEMER  
MARJORIE M. DIXON  
DENNIS R. VALENTI  
RICHARD P. PETERSON, II  
W. DANIEL TROYKA  
JOY M. GLOVICK  
ANDREW D. SUGERMAN  
ERIK DUENAS  
MATTHEW C. RETTIG  
MICHAEL C. CROWLEY  
ROBERT M. O'REILLY  
ARMINIA DUENAS  
CHRISTOPHER J. WALLAKER  
CURTISS D. FLEXTER  
ERIN K. MENDEZ  
ERICA R. NEFF  
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Admitted in Michigan and Ohio

January 16, 2025

VIA EMAIL:

Ms. Lorrie L. Thomas  
Deputy City Clerk, HRC Liaison  
One South Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

RE: Human Relations Commission Report  
2025-01

Dear Ms. Thomas:

This letter follows our discussion on January 13, 2025 and I have since reviewed the last report from the prior City Attorney to the Commission.

Section 58-67 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinance provides in relevant part:

*(a) All persons claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory or unfair practice may, by themselves or by counsel, file with the city attorney a verified, written complaint which shall state the details, name and address of the person or entity alleged to have committed the discriminatory or unfair practice.*

...

*(d) After sufficient review and determination, the city attorney shall issue a written opinion to the human relations commission whether probable cause exists to believe a discriminatory practice or practices occurred as alleged by the complainant.*

Consistent with the foregoing ordinance provisions, from January 1, 2025 (the effective date of my appointment as City Attorney) to the date of this letter:

1. The City Attorney's Office has not received any complaints alleging discriminatory or unfair practices.
2. The City Attorney's Office has not received in transition any pending complaints that might have been filed with the prior City Attorney under the above ordinance, and

**CONLIN, MCKENNEY & PHILBRICK, P.C.**

January 16, 2025

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regarding which further investigation or reporting has been requested. We therefore have no knowledge regarding the status of any such complaints beyond the information provided in the prior City Attorney's most recent report to the Commission.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Randolph T. Barker  
City of Ypsilanti Attorney

RTB/jam

# Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage

In 2017, the Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage was approved by Washtenaw County voters by a 2-1 margin.



**Since January of 2019, when the funds were first made available, the millage has provided essential resources to address crucial community needs like extending behavioral health care to all residents, expanding crisis services, providing supportive housing, and more.**

The millage brings approximately \$5 to \$7 million per year to fund various programs at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH) and community organizations that provide mental health and substance use treatment services. Since the advent of the millage, the need for mental health services has increased substantially. In 2018, just before millage funds were available, WCCMH answered 4,500 calls per month on average. In 2023, that number increased to 8,500 calls per month on average. The millage is slated to expire in 2026 if not renewed.

## WHO OVERSEES COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT DECISIONS?

The Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Millage Advisory Committee (MAC), comprising 13 diverse community members, oversees millage activities and investments. This subcommittee of the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Board reports to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. MAC meetings, open to the public, include a forum for public comments. Community organizations submit mental health funding proposals to the MAC for review and recommendation, which are then forwarded to the WCCMH Executive Board for funding approval.

## WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Roughly 91 percent of millage investments go toward expanding services. The other 9 percent go toward a) education and prevention programs and b) communications and evaluation.

**Mental health service expansion.** Prior to the millage, WCCMH served residents on Medicaid with severe behavioral health needs. Now, WCCMH provides services to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay, including psychological, psychiatric, and crisis services.

**Youth services.** Millage-funded youth services include expanded therapy in schools; youth programming in sports, arts, and leadership; crisis support for suicidal youth, and more.

**Housing.** The millage provides permanent, short-term, and emergency housing through local providers and mental health and substance use support for individuals experiencing housing insecurity.

**Mental health prevention and education.** The millage funds programs designed to destigmatize mental health, raise awareness about local resources, and promote the early detection and treatment of mental illness.

**Criminal justice reform.** Millage-funded initiatives address the overrepresentation of individuals in the criminal legal justice system with behavioral health issues through three initiatives to reform and improve the criminal justice system to better treat individuals with mental health and substance use concerns and make sure WCCMH social workers are on site with police when necessary.

# Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage



## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE MILLAGE?

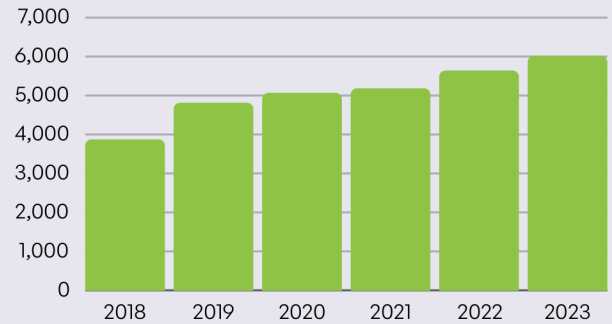
The millage has expanded access to mental health services and support. From pre-millage (2018) to five years after millage dollars have been invested (2023), WCCMH has increased the number of adults served by 147% and the number of youths served by 104%. Total clients served have increased from 3,874 to 6,020. WCCMH provides a range of services. Specifically: assessments, case management and therapy, psychiatric services, peer support services, crisis services, and more. WCCMH extends its services to residents across the county, serving both vulnerable rural communities and densely populated urban areas, ensuring equitable access to resources regardless of geographical location or socio-economic background.

## 22 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE MILLAGE. THEY INCLUDE:

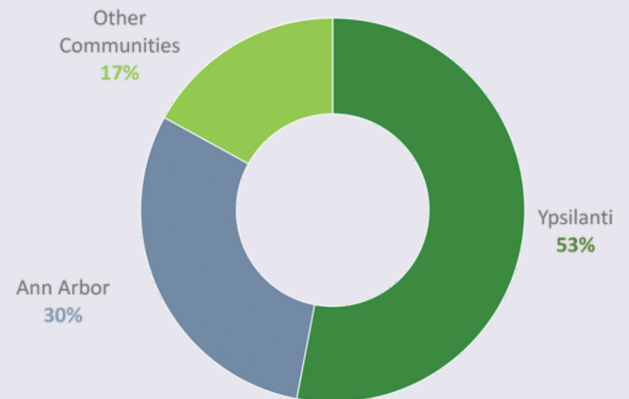
- Avalon Housing
- Barrier Busters
- The Center for Health and Research Transformation
- CLR Academy
- Corner Health Center
- Delonis Center
- Hope Clinic
- Issue Media Group
- Michigan Ability Partners
- Miles Jeffrey Roberts Foundation
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Assessment Center Association
- Ozone House
- Packard Health
- Student Advocacy Center
- Washtenaw County Health Department
- Washtenaw Health Plan Washtenaw Intermediate School District
- Washtenaw County Youth Center Ypsilanti Housing Commission
- 5 Healthy Towns

**In addition to the community funding, 29 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions at WCCMH have been funded by the millage—a 15% increase in WCCMH staff over the last five years.**

WCCMH Clients



WCCMH Location



## ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD.

Through strategic millage investments and community-driven initiatives, the millage has improved access to essential services, positively impacting community well-being and safety. Moving forward, continued collaboration with our community partners and prudent allocation of resources will ensure sustained progress in addressing Washtenaw’s mental health needs.



## Community Mental Health - Millage News

Posted on: September 25, 2024

### Public Safety and Mental Health Millage Renewal: Frequently asked questions

#### Q. What is a millage?

A millage is a property tax rate that generates funds for public purposes. It is calculated based on the assessed taxable value of properties within a jurisdiction.

#### Q. How much money is the Public Safety and Mental Health Millage expected to generate annually?

The millage is expected to generate approximately \$22,409,411 in its first year of collection (2026). This 1-mill tax rate applies to property owners in Washtenaw County. To estimate the tax, divide the millage rate by 1,000 and multiply it by the property's assessed taxable value. Because this millage is a renewal of an existing tax, it will not increase the amount taxpayers are currently paying.

#### Q. Where does this money go?

- 38 percent goes to Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH).
- 38 percent goes to Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (WCSO).
- 24 percent goes to cities and townships with their own police force including Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) at a rate proportional to their respective taxable values.

#### Q. Who decides how the money is spent?

- Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH): A Mental Health Millage Advisory Committee will develop an Advisory Plan to be updated yearly in order to respond to changing needs and conditions in the County. The Advisory Plan will specify the Committee's advised expenditure of millage funds. The Advisory Plan will be presented on an annual basis to the CMH Board for its recommendations and approval, and upon approval, to the Board of Commissioners. CMH staff will outline planned millage investments in the annual CMH budget presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration and adoption as a component of the Board's annual budget process. The Board of Commissioners oversees the budget process and has final authority over how millage dollars are utilized. Advisory committee members represent diverse service areas and serve two years.
- Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (WCSO): A new Advisory Committee created by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners will develop and propose a millage investment plan and share it with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. The sheriff will review this plan then develop a millage investment plan to share with the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will consider and adopt the final millage investment plan during its annual budget process. The Board of Commissioners will have final authority over how millage dollars are utilized. Advisory committee members represent diverse service areas and serve two years.
- Municipalities: Local government bodies, such as the cities of Ann Arbor and Saline, will determine investment allocations with input from stakeholders and policymakers.

#### Q. What are millage funds intended to support?

##### Washtenaw County Community Mental Health uses millage funds for :

- Crisis Services: Immediate crisis assessment, referral, treatment, and supportive services post-crisis.
- Stabilization: Mental health treatment for uninsured individuals or those with high deductibles, and for those who need more than traditional outpatient treatment.
- Prevention: Mental health awareness, prevention, and early intervention programs.

- Jail Services: Expansion of mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment for inmates, including counseling, psychiatric services, and prisoner re-entry support

**Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office uses millage funds for:**

- Preventing criminal justice engagement by serving people in the community.
- Preparing incarcerated individuals for success post-release through education, re-entry, and employment transition programs.
- Improving public safety infrastructure.
- Providing emergency services to local municipalities.

**Q. What is different in the renewal versus the initial vote in 2017?**

The renewal includes a [Millage Expenditure Ordinance](#), an internal policy dictating fund management and use. This ordinance:

- Prohibits the use of millage funds for purchasing or maintaining firearms or other weapons.
- Requires that external programs must be allocated through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- Establishes the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Advisory Committee to ensure enhanced communication and coordination regarding the use of millage funds.
- Requires that at least 50% of the funds allocated to the Sheriff's Office be spent on Mental and Behavioral Health Services, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing, and Community Violence Interruption.

To learn more, [read the ordinance](#) from the June 5th Board of Commissioners meeting packet.