

A RESOLUTION CREATING A WASHTENAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING
FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING THE NEEDS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY
RESIDENTS AGE 60 AND OLDER AND ADVISING THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO AGING

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 1, 2020

*Prepared by: Commissioner Maciejewski and
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WHEREAS, Washtenaw County's residents age 60 and older comprise the fastest growing segment of our population and is growing at an annual rate of approximately 2,500 individuals, a rate of growth that is projected to continue through 2030; and

WHEREAS, SEMCOG estimates that in 2020 there are 78,130 older adults (age 60+) living in Washtenaw County, which is the largest and fastest growing age segment in the county; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 there will be more than 100 Washtenaw county residents age 100 and older, a number that is projected to double in seven years; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County's nonprofit aging services sector cannot keep pace with the growing demand for services, and has hundreds of older Washtenaw county residents on wait lists for essential services such as home-delivered meals (meals-on-wheels), home care, family caregiver respite and home chores; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is one of the few counties in Michigan without a Commission, Council or Agency on Aging to coordinate elder services; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County strives to offer a high quality of life for older adults that attracts and retains older residents and supports their goal of aging in place; and

WHEREAS, the Say Yes to Seniors Coalition, a coalition of over twenty-five county aging service providers, senior centers, advocates and interested individuals has requested that the Board of Commissioners create a citizen Commission on Aging made up of residents appointed by the Board of Commissioners to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners embraces citizen participation in government decision making; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the County Administrator's Office and Corporation Counsel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners shall create an eleven-member Commission on Aging for the purpose of advising the Board of Commissioners on the needs of older Washtenaw County residents and needed actions and strategies to support their quality of life, with at least one member serving from each County Commission district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the two-year term of office for each member of the Commission on Aging shall begin on January 1st of odd numbered years and expire on December 31st of even numbered years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each County Commissioner shall recommend to the Chair of the Board of Commissioners one individual from their district who does not have a conflict of interest arising from an employment relationship with a publicly funded senior service program in the county, to serve as a member of the Commission on Aging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one County Commissioner shall serve as a member of the Commission on Aging and one member will be an at-large member with a professional background in the field of aging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board of Commissioners shall recommend all appointments to the Commission on Aging, subject to approval by the full Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Commissioners amends Section X (B) of its Rules and Regulations to add "Washtenaw County Commission on Aging" to the list of boards, committees, and commissions for which a commissioner may elect to receive a stipend and county mileage reimbursement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Aging shall develop operating bylaws for County Commission approval and report at least annually to the Board of Commissioners on findings of unmet older adult needs, and recommendations to improve the lives of older adults.