WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 7, 2025

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

A session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 7, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 07:18 PM by Comm. Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	Comms.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Ashlyn Poole, Clerk’s Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Comm. Scott provided a brief update on the county compliance with providing the county I-9 information.

   James McCarter, Dexter, and people from the crowd sang a song about hope.

   Latitia Lamelle Sharp, Washtenaw County Treasurer, spoke about an email that she sent to the commissioners and stated that she received no response. She stated that she had concerns about challenges in the Treasurer's office. She spoke about the fact that the Treasurer's office does not ask for immigration information.

   Yvonne Cudney, Ypsilanti Twp., thanked the Board for considering a resolution to allocate funds to food banks and Scip. She spoke about the help that the resolution will provide.

   Janet Hoco, Director of Housing Bureau for Seniors spoke about SCiP and thanked the Board for considering the resolution to allocate funds to local food banks.

   Courtney Vanderlaan, Ypsilanti Twp. spoke about increases in need for services for seniors due to federal funding cuts. She thanked the board for considering the resolution regarding allocating older person millage dollars.

Khadija Moysen, Oakland County, spoke about her organization, The Muslim Foster Care Association work to improve the lives of Muslim children in foster care.

Colleen Bean, Chelsea, MI, spoke about her displeasure with the Board's decision on the I-9 issue. She spoke about the overreach of the current presidential administration.

Dr. Kimberly Jones, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke about her work on the Community Violence Intervention team. She spoke about the funds from the State of Michigan for the WeLive program. She spoke about the funds going to CVIT. She stated her belief that the funds are not going to the correct initiatives. She spoke about her relationship with the current sheriff and stated that they have not received any funds and urged the board to investigate the matter.

Jane Doe, Pittsfield Twp., thanked the Board for fighting against the actions of DHS. She expressed her continued concerns. She requested that public statements from the Board be translated into other languages.

Amy Krochek, Ann Arbor, thanked the commissioners for expressing skepticism that DHS is approaching the I-9 audit in good faith. She stated that the current administration was not law-abiding and urged the commissioners to continue their efforts.

Lexi Reid, Ypsilanti Twp. spoke about Dana Nessel and asked for continued support from the Board. She spoke about Pro-Palestine protesters being targeted for their beliefs.

Jeremy Haley, Ypsilanti Twp., expressed his appreciation for the board listening to public comments. He spoke about attending other meetings around the county. He spoke about his issues with U of M.

Crystal Campbell, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke as the director of Operations for the Sheriff's Department about the community violence intervention grant that a resident spoke about earlier. She gave some more information about the team and the grant funds. She stated that SAVE was not named as an organization on the grant. She expressed the Sheriff's willingness to work with SAVE.

Emily Schuester Waltsberger Ann Arbor, MI spoke about the humanity of refugees. She spoke about her work with refugees from El Salvador and how it enriched her life. She urged the Board to remember humanity.

Ruth Cassidy, Ypsilanti Twp., spoke about the County ID Program and stated her hope that the county will continue the program. She urged allies to continue to defend the program as well.

Ezra, Chelsea expressed their displeasure with the County giving over their I-9 forms.

Marjorie Seaford, Ann Arbor, expressed her sadness, confusion, anger, and fear with the Board's actions with providing DHS I-9 Information. Urged the Board to do the right thing regarding the County IDs.

Jerry Eno, Ann Arbor, expressed his shock and outrage that the County shared data with the Administration.

Jen Schlit, Ypsilanti, encouraged the county to defy the federal government. She spoke about her personal experience with immigration. She thanked the Board and urged them to continue to protect the residents.

Aubrey Patino, Ann Arbor, echoed the sentiments of the other residents regarding her disappointment with the county turning over I-9 data. She spoke about the immigrants in her life and their contributions.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Rabhi thanked all the speakers. He spoke about his objections to turning over the I-9 data. He expressed his disappointment with the decision that the county made. He expressed his belief that the decision was a violation of the open meetings act. He stated that if he was given a vote, he would have voted no. He spoke more about the actions of the administration.

Comm. LaBarre expressed appreciation to everyone who spoke. He spoke about his commitment to protecting County ID info.

Comm. Lyte thanked the residents for coming out. She expressed her commitment to immigrant rights. She spoke about her advocacy and asked that the county be strategic. She asked the residents to be mindful of people who are afraid to speak or be in public. She spoke about the Underground Railroad and the need to keep some information quiet.

Comm. Somerville thanked the speakers. She spoke about her time on the City Council. She spoke about the necessity for Closed Session. She spoke about the reason for the Board turning over I-9 information. She echoed the sentiments of Comm. Lyte.

Comm. Beeman thanked everyone who spoke. She spoke more about the decision to turn over I-9 documents. She stated that she understood the fear that the residents were feeling. She spoke about the difficulties that the county faces, and she asked for trust from the residents. She asked them to understand that some information cannot be shared.

Comm. Scott thanked the speakers. She spoke about the difficulties with keeping certain information from the residents. She spoke about receiving guidance from counsel. She echoed the sentiments of Comm. Lyte.

Comm. Rabhi stated his plan to continue protesting and being transparent with the public. He stated his belief that decisions should be made in public. He spoke about his vulnerabilities and being outspoken as the child of an immigrant. He stated the importance of speaking out.

Comm. Somerville highlighted the statement issued by the Board. She read the statement that the Board sent out April 28, 2025.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. LaBarre reported on CMH and issues with the state and the PFP structure.

Comm. Somerville provided a report on the Commission on Aging and their feedback on the resolution and the proposal.

Comm. Scott reported on Parks and Recreation and spoke about selecting a new Parks Director.

VI. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Catherine Jones -Alther provided more information to the commissioners on the Sheriff's office fund balance.

1. Derrick Jackson, Racial Equity Officer, provided a Community Violence Interruption Summit Report.

   Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on the Rate of Firearm Deaths which Jackson provided.

   Comm. Hodge thanked Jackson for his work and expressed his hope that the county can work more with the office.

VII. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **25-088** Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution setting a public hearing on the 2025 tax rate be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

IX. APPOINTMENTS

1. **25-087** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Community Action Board be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting of the Board of Commissioners be approved. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

2.
   R-0023 RECEIVED: April 9, 2025: State of Michigan – Department of Treasury: Notice of Approval of Board of Commissioners petition to opt out of appointing a County Designated Assessor
   R-0024 RECEIVED: April 25, 2025: Charter Township of Canton – Planning Commission Notice of Public Hearing

   Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the communications be received and dealt with as recommended. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register’s Office.)

3. Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

4.

5.

A. Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of $25,000 and under from April 8, 2025, through April 29, 2025. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

B. Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received:

A report from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the month of April, 2025

. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

C. Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: Q4 Administrative Authority Budget Adjustment. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

6.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

1.

A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution setting the 2025 Washtenaw County Millage Rate at 7.3157 from Finance be approved.Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **25-089** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution ratifying the proposal for the Financial Empowerment Center Legacy Implementation Grant from the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1. Motion carried.

3.

A. **25-090**

Comm. Somerville the administrative team for their work to expand the grant.

Comm. Rabhi asked what the additional funds would be going toward.
Comm. Somerville stated that they were being used to expand transitional and emergency housing in Washtenaw.

Comm. Rabhi asked for more clarification, which Somerville provided.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution to ratify the County Administrator's signature on the FY25 grant application and award with the State of Michigan for the Legislative Enhancement Grant from Administration be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

B. **25-091**

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge proposed an amendment to the resolution.

Comm. Lyte expressed some objections to allocating these funds to a specific organization. She also expressed issues with funds going toward salaries and services.

Comm. Somerville stated that the county was close to creating a framework for the millage funds. She spoke more about the amendment and the reason why its focus is narrow.

Comm. Sanders spoke about Food Gatherers and a request that she made for the names of community partners. She also expressed her desire for the Board to name the agency in the amendment. She also expressed concerns about transparency with agencies being able to apply for funds. She asked about the funds going toward salaries. She asked for entities who receive county funds to be more transparent. She expressed her discomfort with passing the amendment as a first and only reading. She asked if the agency requested the funds and asked about the process.

Comm. Hodge asked about the intent of the amendment and the language used. Comm. LaBarre spoke more about this question.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Hodge withdrew the amendment.

Comm. Rabhi asked how the county's contribution would be acknowledged and stated that he wanted the county to be acknowledged in the future. Ellis Johnson spoke more about this issue. He requested that the recipient of the services receive a letter from the service provider acknowledging the county. Comm. Rabhi stated that he would like OCED to handle contracts until a more fitting entity is identified. He expressed his uncertainty about the amount of funds requested and if they would be adequate to address current issues.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Hodge moved to increase the amount allocated to Barrier Busters to $200,000 and the amount allocated to Food Gatherers to $600,000.

Comm. Somerville expressed her disagreement with the motion and stated that the amount requested came directly from program staff.

Comm. Sanders expressed that she would not be supporting the motion because there had not been an ask and because of the current need to be prudent with funds.

Comm. Somerville, seconded by Comm. Hodge made a motion to call the question. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Rabhi's amendment. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 2 NAYS 7 ABSENT 0. Motion failed.

Comm. Somerville, seconded by Comm. Scott moved that language be added that requires that the County Administrative Team use the language developed through the

New Human Services Partnership.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the language that OCED uses. OCED gave some clarification.

Comm. Rabhi stated his goal by advertising the county's contribution to services. He stated that he wanted residents to recognize where their millage dollars were going.

Comm. Somerville and Comm. Scott agreed with Comm. Rabhi's sentiments.

Comm. Somerville's Amendment: Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that he would like data regarding outcomes. Comm. Maciejewski, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved to require service providers who receive funds to report outcome data per the forthcoming older adult millage policy.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he was not comfortable writing policy pertaining to a future document and asked if there was a policy already stated when the millage was passed. Andrew Deleeuw, Deputy County Administrator, gave more information about the millage reporting requirements.

After discussion, Comm. Somerville amended the language in the amendment to direct the county administrator to develop a policy in alignment with resolution #24-102 to collect data and outcomes regarding millage funding. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that the document regarding the older adult millage would be ready for a vote soon.

Comm. LaBarre expressed his support for the resolution as amended and stated that he would like to carve out a small amount for an expedited process for future funds. He also stated that he could not express support for a proposal that he had not seen.

Comm. Rabhi echoed the sentiments of Comm. LaBarre and stated that he felt excluded from the development of the plan. He also stated that he would like more discussion and engagement from the public on any proposal brought forward.

Comm. Somerville spoke about the work on the proposal going on for more than 2 years. She expressed her desire to work with each of the commissioners to work on the proposal.
Comm. Maciejewski stated that he would like the body to consider the proposal and clarified that he never assumed that any proposal would be passed. He clarified his comments about the RFP. He also commended Comm. Somerville for her work on the proposal.

Comm. Rabhi clarified his earlier comments and stated that working sessions should be continued.

Comm. Beeman thanked Comm. Somerville, Maciejewski, and Scott for their work on the proposal. She stated that she was hearing a desire to get the funds out to the community faster.

Comm.Sanders expressed her belief that there should be more communication between the executive board and the other commissioners. She noted that all the commissioners were part-time and expressed that many issues could be handled before the board meeting. She expressed her interest to be an alternate on the committee to develop the proposal.

Comm. Scott stated that she would like to change the leadership structure.

Comm. Somerville clarified her previous comments.

Comm. Rabhi commended Chair Scott's leadership.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution allocating a portion of the Older Adult Millage dollars into the community on a one-time basis from Administration be approved as amended. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

C. **25-092** Comm. Hodge presented a resolution to the Health Department recognizing them for achieving state accreditation. Comm. Hodge spoke about the importance of this achievement. Jimena Loveluck thanked her staff.

Laura de la Rabalje, Director, Division of Local Health Services, MI Department of Health & Human Services spoke more about the achievement and highlighted the work of the staff.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution recognizing Washtenaw County Health Department for achieving state accreditation through the Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

D. **25-093** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution amending the 2025 Board of Commissioners Annual Calendar of Meetings be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

E. **25-094** Comm. Rabhi spoke about Wes Prater and spoke about his legacy and his time on the Board of Commissioners.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution honoring the life of Wesley Prater be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

F. **25-095** Comm. Somerville, Comm. Lyte, Derrick Jackson, Racial Equity Officer, and Mayor Nicole Brown presented the resolution honoring Deshawn Leeth to his family. His family thanked the Board for the support and spoke about Leeth's legacy.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Deshawn Dante Leeth be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

G. **25-096** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution to recognize the ceremony at Popkin Cemetery commemorating the service of Revolutionary War Veteran Sylvester Richmond be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

H. Pulled and moved to the next meeting.

I. **25-097** Comm. Scott presented a resolution to Nifhia Reid-Sanders, Director of Nursing, Health Department**.**

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

J. **25-098** Comm. Rabhi presented a resolution recognizing May 5th as missing and murdered indigenous people's awareness day to Andrea Pierce and Black Crow Pierce spoke more about the resolution. She also spoke about the MMIP taskforce.

Black Crow spoke about his people disappearing without justice. He thanked the Board for taking the time to pass the resolution.

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution proclaiming May 5, 2025, as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day in Washtenaw County be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

4.

A. **25-099** Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of April 28, 2025 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Hodge wished Comm. Beeman a Happy Birthday.

1. Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that the commissioners to go into closed session to receive an opinion from counsel be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

XIII. PENDING

None.

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Beeman moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 AM.

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Katie Scott, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: May 21, 2025