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April 23, 2014

RE: Oil and Gas Exploration Public Information Meeting

Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor

Dear Resident:

City Council

Stephanie Morita
District 1

We have been advised that you have been, or may possibly be, contacted by a representative of an Oil and Gas Company. This Oil and Gas representative is seeking a lease to explore oil and gas minerals believed to be below your property. The area they are interested in is primarily along the Tienken Road corridor across the city from west to east. Auburn Hills to the west and Shelby Township to the east are also part of this oil exploration pursuit.

Adam Kochenderfer
District 2

Oil and gas exploration is not new to Michigan or Oakland County. Currently there are 18,000 wells operating in Michigan with 49 active wells in Oakland County. Communities like Troy, Shelby Township, Novi, and Livonia currently have operations within their community limits. It is, however, something new for our community and it is our sincere desire that each homeowner who is approached has as much information as possible in order to make this personal decision.

Greg Hooper
District 3

Over the last several months, there has been much discussion and commentary about the process and the decisions being asked of our homeowners. How does the process work? Is this safe? How are my rights protected both as a homeowner and community member? Why was my area chosen?

Thomas W. Wiggins
District 4

Kevin S. Brown
At-Large

During these months of discussion, the administration and City Council have worked with neighboring communities, industry experts, environmental groups, and interested residents to gain perspective on this issue. The simple fact is, we did not invite the gas and oil companies here, nor can we simply ask them to go away.

Mark A. Tisdell
At-Large

Michael Webber
At-Large


This is undoubtedly a complicated issue. There are many questions, and my job as Mayor is to try to get the people with the answers to our residents with the questions.

Therefore, I am inviting you to an **Oil and Gas Public Information Meeting which will be held at Rochester College on May 5, 2014 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** This open house format is designed to be resident-friendly and will allow you to ask your specific questions and to stay as long or as short as your schedule permits. I have assembled the top decision makers from the MDEQ, including Mr. Hal Fitch, the Supervisor of Wells for the State of Michigan, as well as representatives from the company seeking the leases. Additionally, the City of Rochester Hills will have representatives to discuss our ordinances, and the city attorney will be there to provide insight on the City's position to date.

All of these experts are being gathered for one purpose, to answer your individual questions and to provide you with factual information about this program governed by State Law and regulated by the MDEQ.

I must state, this Oil and Gas Exploration program is not sponsored or promoted by the City. In fact, the City recognizes that the business of a land owner leasing his or her mineral rights is strictly a civil matter between the land owner and the company proposing to lease these mineral rights. Our goal in organizing this informational meeting is simply to give you, our residents specifically impacted by this process, a chance to interact directly with the people making decisions. I am looking forward to this community meeting and hope you can attend.

Sincerely,



Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor
City of Rochester Hills