

RESOLUTION 2018-14

Authorizing the Charter Township of Ypsilanti to Exercise its “First Right of Refusal” and to Purchase from Washtenaw County Treasurer Catherine McClary Acting in her Capacity as the Foreclosing Governmental Unit Under the Authority of the General Property Tax Act the Real Properties Described Herein Located In Ypsilanti Township, Michigan

WHEREAS, on or about **March 31, 2018** Washtenaw County Treasurer Catherine McClary, Acting in her capacity as the **Foreclosing Governmental Unit** (FGU) under the Authority of the **General Property Tax Act** (GPTA) foreclosed upon certain properties in the Washtenaw County Circuit Court due to delinquent real property taxes.

The “**List of Tax Foreclosed Properties**” for **2018** last revised on **May 30, 2018** (See Exhibit 1) was received by Ypsilanti Township Clerk **Karen Lovejoy Roe** from Washtenaw County Treasurer McClary which contained *inter alia* the following Ypsilanti Township properties which set forth the amount of unpaid delinquent taxes and are described as follows:

1. **835 Lamay**
Parcel No.: **K-11-02-306-015**
Minimum Bid: **\$29,198.00**
Legal Description:
YP#76-240 Lot 240 Lay Garden Subdivision

2. **792 N. Ford Blvd.**
Parcel No.: **K-11-02-328-002**
Minimum Bid: **\$18,275.00**
Legal Description:
YP#58-271 Lot 271 East Park Subdivision

3. **1601 Foley**
Parcel No.: **K-11-14-281-017**
Minimum Bid: **\$19,974.00**
Legal Description:
YP#148-1 Lot 1 Willow Heights

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals for the State of Michigan in an unanimous decision released for publication on **April 5, 2011** entitled

“City of Bay City vs Bay County Treasurer” held that under the GPTA that “. . . ***the determination of a proper purpose for the purchase of tax-delinquent property is a legislative function, vesting such determinations as arose in this case with Plaintiff’s council.***

Furthermore, because MCL 211.78(m)(1) creates a mandatory legal duty on Defendant’s part to sell the property to Plaintiff granting him no discretion to decide not to sale such property, the statute does not empower a county treasurer . . . to make an independent determination as to a municipality’s professed ‘public’ purpose” a

copy of the Court of Appeals decision being attached hereto and incorporated by reference and labeled Exhibit 2; and

WHEREAS, from 2007 through 2017 Ypsilanti Township has seen over 3,000 foreclosures which make up approximately thirty-three (33%) of all foreclosures that have occurred during this time period in Washtenaw County even though the Township’s population is only fifteen (15%) of the County’s total population; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented record number of foreclosures in Ypsilanti Township resulted in a significant loss of tax revenue to the Township while also having a direct and negative effect upon the residential property values Township wide; and

WHEREAS, this record number of foreclosures in the Township destabilized a number of residential streets located within the Township’s residential subdivisions and greatly contributed to a number of residential neighborhoods becoming predominantly rental properties which further contributed to the destabilization of residential properties; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Ypsilanti in an effort to stabilize the Township’s existing residential neighborhoods entered into a partnership with Habitat for Humanity for acquiring and rehabilitating residential properties located in the Township for homeowner occupancy

which has resulted in increased neighborhood stabilization and has prevented further deterioration of existing residential subdivisions throughout the Township while also resulting in the increase of property values and the tax base in the Township; and

WHEREAS, Habitat has notified the Township of its desire to acquire additional residential properties in the Township for rehabilitation and resale to homeowners which further promotes the Township's Board stated policy of neighborhood stabilization; and

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees has determined and hereby finds that the exercise of its **"First Right of Refusal"** to acquire the above listed properties constitutes a **"Public Purpose"** as set forth in the Court of Appeals case entitled **"City of Bay City vs Bay County Treasurer"** since it is imperative that in order for the Township to achieve its stated public purpose of neighborhood stabilization and to prevent further deterioration of residential property values that the Township continues in its ongoing efforts with Habitat for Humanity to increase homeownership by acquiring residential properties in the Township for resale to Habitat who will rehabilitate said properties that in turn will be resold to persons for homeownership as opposed to being utilized as rental/investment properties; and

WHEREAS, the Township has been advised by the Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office that the minimum bid price for all of the above listed properties total **\$67,447.00**;

NOW, THEREFORE THE YPSILANTI CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Township hereby finds and determines that the exercise of its **"First Right of Refusal"** pursuant to the General Property Tax Act as further defined in the Court of Appeals case entitled

“City of Bay City vs Bay County Treasurer” to purchase the properties hereinabove listed located in the Township of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, State of Michigan, constitutes a **“Public Purpose”** since it is imperative that in order for the Township to achieve its stated public purpose of neighborhood stabilization and to prevent further deterioration of residential property values that the Township continues in its ongoing efforts with Habitat for Humanity to increase homeownership by acquiring residential properties in the Township for resale to Habitat who will rehabilitate said properties that in turn will be resold to persons for homeownership as opposed to being utilized as rental/investment properties.

2. That the Township hereby notifies Washtenaw County Treasurer Catherine McClary Acting in her Capacity as the Foreclosing Governmental Unit that the Township desires to purchase the above listed properties under the Township’s **“First Right of Refusal”** for the minimum bid of each property which totals **\$67,477.00**.

3. That the Township authorizes the payment of **\$67,477.00** for the purpose of acquiring the above listed properties pursuant to the Township’s **“First Right of Refusal”** for the **“Public Purpose”** as defined herein.

I, Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan hereby certify the above resolution is a true and exact copy of Resolution No. 2018-14 approved by the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, Board of Trustees assembled at a Regular Meeting held on June 19, 2018.



Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk
Charter Township of Ypsilanti