



Date: February 18, 2020
To: Rochester Hills City Council
From: Renee Cortright, OPC Executive Director
Subject: OPC Operational Millage

The Older Persons' Commission (OPC) operating millage is set to expire in December 2020. That millage, which was authorized at .25 mills and subsequently reduced pursuant to the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan constitution, provides a portion of the funding for services to vulnerable seniors as well as maintenance of the facility and the administration of OPC operations. Pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement between Rochester Hills, Oakland Township and Rochester, the OPC Governing Board is requesting of all three communities, a renewal of the .25 operating millage and a modest increase of .07 mills (maximum to maximum) to the operating millage of a total levy of .32 mills, be placed on the August 4, 2020 ballot. This renewal is vital to the sustainability of the OPC.

Over the past ten years, OPC operations and services have expanded to meet the increasing needs of the senior population in our service area. Membership has grown substantially as have class and event offerings to meet the needs of the seniors that we serve with a variety of services and activities. In addition, the OPC facility is 17 years old and major repairs are anticipated in the next ten years. The OPC Board and Administration have worked hard to meet this increasing demand within the constraints of the current millage. Since 2015 \$720,000 in annual savings and revenue increases have been generated through the implementation of various operational efficiencies and improvements, including elimination of full-time positions and reorganizations; renegotiation of service contracts; increasing use of technology and offsite registration; and increased focus on marketing and fundraising. For Fiscal Year 2019, 64% of the support for OPC activities is generated by sources other than the area's taxpayers.

These efforts have allowed the OPC to generally meet the increasing service demands, however as the senior population expands along with their needs, a more appropriate millage levy will be needed, particularly since the current levy has not increased since it was originally passed in 1983 (37 years). The requested .32 levy will add only \$.95 per month to the city's home owners tax bill.

Requested Action: To approve the following Ballot Question for the Older Persons' Commission Operating Millage.

BALLOT QUESTION
OPERATING MILLAGE FOR OLDER PERSONS' COMMISSION

Shall the City of Rochester Hills renew and continue to levy 0.2334 mills (\$.0023 per \$1,000) (reduced by the Headlee Amendment from the original of 0.025 mills) and also levy an additional 0.09 mills (\$.09 per \$1,000) for a total of \$0.32 mills (\$0.32 per \$1,000) for ten (10) years, 2020 through 2029 inclusive, on the taxable value of all property assessed for taxes in the City to fund activities and services for older persons and operation, equipping and maintenance of an older persons activities center? If approved and levied in full, this will provide an estimated revenue of \$1,189,200 in the first year. ___ Yes ___ No

By supporting the OPC Operational Millage you're assuring seniors will continue to receive vital services such as Meals on Wheels, Transportation, Adult Day Care, Support Groups, Enrichment, Fitness & Aquatics classes, Information & Referral, Dining in Meals, Socialization, Volunteer Opportunities and so much more.