



Mayor Deirdre Waterman

October 2018

★ SPIRIT of PONTIAC ★  
*Newsletter*

*Dr. Deirdre Waterman has been Mayor of Pontiac since 2014. She holds the distinction of being the city's first woman to serve as Mayor in a strong mayoral form of government city and to be elected to two consecutive terms.*

<https://www.facebook.com/pontiacmayor/>

## CLARK HILL PRESSES ON WITH COUNCIL LAWSUIT DESPITE LACK OF AUTHORIZATION

*(Costs to taxpayers will climb as case moves to Court of Appeals)*

The costs to taxpayers are mounting in a senseless lawsuit filed by the Pontiac City Council against Mayor Deirdre Waterman and former Finance Director Nevrus Nazarko that council is now taking to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

In March, council passed a resolution to retain the law firm Clark Hill at a rate of \$300 an hour without stating a reason for needing to hire outside attorneys,. The council has legal representation from the city's law firm, Giamarco, Mullins & Horton.

When the city refused to pay Clark Hill's initial invoice of more than \$4,000 for services completed before council voted to engage the firm, the council sued the mayor and finance director.

The city has asked for the lawsuit to be dismissed, as the resolution to hire Clark Hill did not name a matter before council requiring independent representation and falls outside the City Charter's boundaries.

Clark Hill has now submitted invoices totaling more than \$47,590.61 that mostly consist of advice and consultation to council on how to proceed with this lawsuit.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Daniel P. O'Brien questioned why the matter was in court at a July 25 hearing.

When the case was originally filed, The Oakland Press quoted Council President Kermit Williams as saying the issue could be dealt with in court "in a couple hours."

Five months after his prediction, Clark Hill has now taken the case to the Michigan Court of Appeals, where it is pending.

In a statement to the press, Mayor Waterman said: "council's lawsuit is devastating for the city and a financial burden for the citizens."

## MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROPOSAL PREVAILS BY 1 VOTE AFTER RECOUNT

A recount of the vote for **Proposal 1** in the August 7 primary election was held September 12 at the request of Pontiac resident Billie Swazer.

The recount was requested after a close vote and ballot shortages. A number of votes could not be recounted due to improper seals, including all votes in **Precinct No. 19** as well as absentee ballots in 10 precincts.

The mayor is determined to address any issues that occurred in the primary election and hold elections personnel accountable for honoring the critical right of citizens to vote in a transparent and efficient manner at the polls.

Initial election results showed that **Proposal 1** passed by a six-vote margin, **3,900 to 3,894**. The recount found that **Proposal 1** passed by one vote, with **3,896 YES** votes to **3,895 NO** votes.

Work is underway in the city on a regulatory framework for **Proposal 1**, including a Planning Commission approval process for medical marijuana facilities and an application process conducted by the City Clerk that must be in place 60 days from the date of the recount.

**Mayor Deirdre Waterman**

And

**Pontiac City Council**

Invite you to attend a very important

**TOWN HALL DISCUSSION ON PROPOSAL 1**

# **Medical Marijuana**

**Thursday October 18, 2018**

**Bowens Center 52 Bagley St. Pontiac, Mi**

**6:00 PM**



**WE WILL DISCUSS THE PROCESS AND FUTURE PLANS**

- WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITY?
- TYPES OF FACILITIES & WHERE SHOULD THEY BE?
- HOW DO WE GET THE BEST BENEFITS FOR PONTIAC?
- WHAT ARE THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES?

**WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

Hosted by: Mayor Waterman, City Council and Pontiac City Attorney

**MAYOR WATERMAN CHOSEN AS MICHIGAN  
MUNICIPAL LEAGUE TRUSTEE**

Mayor Deirdre Waterman is one of six new members of the Michigan Municipal League's board of trustees.

Waterman and fellow board members from Midland, Boyne City, Vassar City, Holland and Menominee were elected by Michigan Municipal League members at the organization's convention September 21 in Grand Rapids.

The MML, a nonprofit dedicated to bettering Michigan communities, noted Mayor Waterman's achievements since taking office in 2013, including bringing Pontiac out from under state financial oversight and from a budget deficit to a \$15-million surplus.



## OAKLAND UNIVERSITY & PONTIAC ANNOUNCE COMMUNITY IMPACT SPONSORSHIP GRANTS

As the partnership between the City of Pontiac and Oakland University enters its fourth year, the leaders of the initiative are pleased to announce the availability of community impact sponsorships for projects that support one or more of the six pillars of the collaboration between the university and city.

The sponsorship's provide a funding mechanism for projects that enhance students' experiential learning opportunities, foster civic engagement in the city, promote collaborative research efforts and encourage economic vitality for Pontiac.

The pillars of the OU/Pontiac Initiative are: education; civic engagement; economic and workforce development; health care and wellness; arts and culture; and nonprofits and neighborhoods.

One-time award requests between \$500 and \$5,000 will be considered from documented nonprofits or business entities that can demonstrate prior involvement in one of the pillar areas.

Applications are due by October 15. To view complete sponsorship criteria and to apply, visit the OU/Pontiac Initiative website at: [oakland.edu/studentaffairs/pontiac-initiative/](http://oakland.edu/studentaffairs/pontiac-initiative/) and click "Community Impact Sponsorship Application."

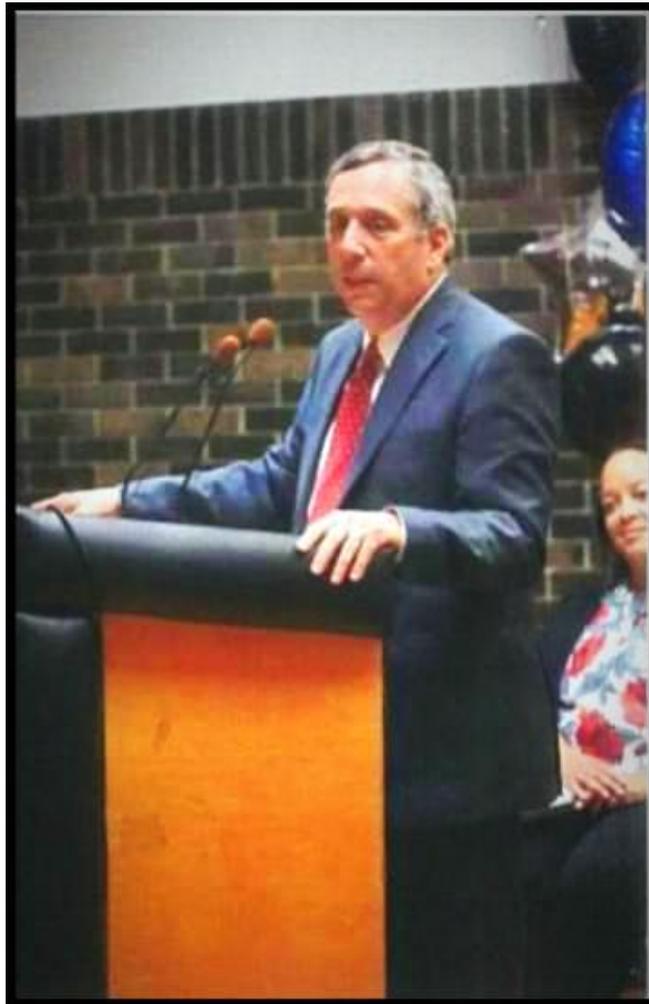
## HARVARD PRESIDENT RETURNS TO PONTIAC AS HOMETOWN HERO

Newly appointed Harvard University President Lawrence Bacow, a Pontiac native, made his pledge to make an impact in the city and its schools clear when he visited September 13.

"It gave me a chance to encourage them to dream and to set their heights high and not to believe anybody who tells them that they can't do anything or that something is beyond their reach," Bacow told *The Harvard Crimson* of his visit with International Technology Academy students.

Bacow discussed pathways to higher education and noted that Harvard students from families with incomes below \$65,000 have their tuition paid for with a scholarship.

Bacow attended Webster Elementary, Washington Middle School and Pontiac Central High School while growing up, according to *The Oakland Press*.



## UNITED SHORE CELEBRATES NEW PONTIAC HEADQUARTERS, \$85M INVESTMENT

Mortgage company United Shore - which relocated its headquarters from Troy to Pontiac and plans to bring 2,400 employees to the city - held a ribbon-cutting September 12 attended by Mayor Waterman, Deputy Mayor Jane Bais-DiSessa, councilmembers Kermit Williams and Patrice Waterman and Economic Development Director Rachel Loughrin.

The move of the nation's No. 1 wholesale mortgage lender into Pontiac is a proud economic development moment for the city and a vote of confidence in its renaissance. United Shore's purchase and renovation of the former Hewlett Packard Enterprise facility represents an \$85-million investment in Pontiac.

United Shore returned \$1.9 million in incentives from the Oakland County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority that were awarded for the move, with President and CEO Matt Ishbia saying taxpayer funds aren't needed for the project.



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