

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

JOSEPH G. GRIFFIN, and
CHRISTINA GRIFFIN, individually and
as representatives of a class of similarly-
situated persons and entities,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS,
a Michigan municipal corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 2020-181196-CZ
Hon. Yasmine I. Poles

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**STIPULATED ORDER REGARDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, NOTICE AND SCHEDULING**

At a session of said Court held in the
City of Mt. Clemens, County of Oakland,
State of Michigan on 7/29/2021

PRESENT: HON. YASMINE I. POLES
Circuit Court Judge

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs commenced the above captioned lawsuit in Oakland County Circuit Court (the “Lawsuit”) challenging stormwater service charges (the “Stormwater Charges”) the City imposes upon owners of real property.

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs contend that: (a) the Stormwater Charge is not a proper user fee but a tax wrongfully imposed by the City to raise revenue in violation of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan constitution of 1963; (b) the Stormwater Charge violates the Prohibited Taxes By Cities And Villages Act, MCL 141.91 because the Stormwater Charge is not an ad valorem tax, but is a tax imposed, levied, or collected after January 1, 1964; (c) the City has been unjustly enriched by the collection and retention of the Stormwater Charges and/or is required to refund the Stormwater Charges under a theory of assumpsit; and (d) that Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have been harmed by the City’s collection and retention of Stormwater Charges.

WHEREAS, the Complaint alleges that the Lawsuit should be maintained as a class action on behalf of a class consisting of persons or entities who or which have paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges during the permitted time periods preceding the filing of this Lawsuit and/or at any time during the pendency of this action.

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2021, this Court entered an Opinion and Order certifying the lawsuit as a class action.

WHEREAS, the City denies that the City’s Stormwater Charges are improper; denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to any refunds of the Stormwater Charges; denies that it has been unjustly enriched or retained the Stormwater Charges; denies that it has intentionally or negligently committed any unlawful, wrongful or tortious acts or omissions, violated any constitutional provision or statute, or breached any duties of any kind whatsoever; denies that it is in any way liable to any member of the Class; and states that the claims asserted in the Lawsuit have no substance in fact or law, and the City has meritorious defenses to such claims; but, nevertheless, has agreed to enter into this Agreement to

avoid further expense, inconvenience, and distraction and risks of burdensome and protracted litigation, and to obtain total and final peace, satisfaction and protection from the claims asserted in the Lawsuit.

WHEREAS, the Named Plaintiffs in the Lawsuit and Class Counsel have been provided with discovery and have conducted investigations into the facts of the Lawsuit, have made a thorough study of the legal principles applicable to the claims in the Lawsuit, and have concluded that a class settlement with the City in the amount and on the terms hereinafter set forth (the “Settlement”) is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of the Class.

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to compromise their differences and to resolve and release all of the claims asserted by the Named Plaintiffs and the Class in the Lawsuit.

WHEREAS Plaintiffs and Defendant are submitting this Stipulated Order for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement in this matter;

WHEREAS Plaintiffs and Defendant in this action intend to make application to this Court, pursuant to MCR 3.501(E), for a Final Order approving the settlement of this class action in accordance with the terms set forth in the Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”), executed by the City and Class Counsel with an effective date of July 15__, 2021, and attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and they seek preliminary approval of the Agreement for purposes of, among other things, notifying class members of the proposed settlement;

WHEREAS the Court has been made aware of the mediation and settlement process leading to the agreement reached, and counsel have demonstrated that the settlement is within a range of reasonableness and is the result of arm’s length bargaining of counsel well versed in the issues.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Unless defined otherwise herein, all capitalized terms shall have the definitions and meanings accorded to them in the Agreement.

2. The Court preliminarily approves the terms of the Agreement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court finds that the Settlement was reached in the absence of collusion, and is the product of informed, good-faith, arm's length negotiations between the Parties and their counsel. Pursuant to MCR 3.501, the "Class," as defined in Paragraph 2 of the Agreement, is hereby certified for settlement purposes only.

3. A hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") will be held before this Court on November 17, 2021 at 9 a.m., to determine whether the proposed settlement between Plaintiffs and Defendant, on the terms and conditions provided in the Agreement, is fair, reasonable and adequate and should be approved by the Court, to determine whether a final judgment should be entered dismissing this Lawsuit with prejudice, and without costs, and to determine whether to award attorneys' fees and expenses to Class Counsel and the amount of such fees and expenses.

4. The Court approves the notification to the members of the Class regarding the Settlement and right to hearing, as authorized in Paragraphs 5 and 7 of this Order, finding that such notification is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, is in compliance with MCR 3.501, and the requirements of due process of law, and will adequately inform Class Members of their rights.

5. Within 14 days after entry of this Order, but no earlier than July 30, 2021, the City shall provide the Claims-Escrow Administrator with billing and payment records in electronic form that, at a minimum, provide for the Class Period (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021) the service address, account number, and billing and payment history for each person or entity which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges

5. On or before thirty-five (35) days from the entry of this Order, Plaintiffs' Counsel shall cause a Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement ("Notice"), substantially in the form attached to the Agreement as Exhibit "C," to be mailed to members of the Class. Plaintiffs' Counsel shall also

cause a Notice, attached to the Agreement as Exhibit “A” to be published in local papers as described in the Agreement.

6. The law firm of Kickham Hanley PLLC (“KH”) is hereby appointed as Class Counsel in this Action. KH is further appointed as Claims-Escrow Administrator for this Action. KH is authorized to use the services of a third-party administrator (“TPA”), as provided in the Agreement, to administer a portion of the Settlement Fund to distribute Refunds as described in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 21 of the Agreement. Defendant will administer a portion of the Settlement Fund to apply Credits as described in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11, and 21 of the Agreement. KH (with the assistance of a TPA) is authorized to implement the notice requirements set forth in and approved by this Order.

7. The Court directs anyone within the Class definition who wishes to be excluded from the Class and to exercise their right to opt-out of the Class to follow the opt-out procedures and deadlines set forth in the Notice. Any Class Member who does not opt-out may appear personally, or by counsel of his or her own choice and at his or her own expense at the Settlement Hearing to show cause why: (a) the proposed settlement of the claims asserted should or should not be approved as fair, just, reasonable, adequate and in good faith; or (b) judgment should or should not be entered thereon; provided, however, that no Class member will be heard at the Hearing or be entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed settlement, the judgment to be entered thereon approving the same, or the attorneys’ fees and expenses to be paid, or other matter(s) that may be considered by the Court at or in connection with said settlement hearings unless the Class member files with the Court and serves upon counsel listed below at least sixty (60) days prior to the hearing written objections that set forth the name of this matter as defined in the Notice, the objector’s full name, address and telephone number, an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Class Member, all grounds for the objection including any known legal support for the objection, the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement in the

past five years and a caption of each case in which an objection was filed, the identity of all counsel representing the objector at the hearing, a statement confirming whether the objector intends to appear and/or testify at the hearing (along with a disclosure of all testifying witnesses) and the signature of the objector (not just the objector's attorney):

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Attorneys for Defendant

8. Any Class member who does not opt out and who does not object in the manner provided above shall be deemed to have waived any and all objections to the fairness, adequacy or reasonableness of the proposed settlements or the award of attorney's fees and expenses, and shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Lawsuit concerning the Settlement, including, but not limited to the Release and Covenant set forth in Paragraph 26 of the Agreement.

9. As stated in Paragraph 6, KH is authorized to serve as the Claims-Escrow Administrator. The Claims-Escrow Administrator, with the assistance of a TPA, shall be responsible for holding the Settlement Fund in escrow, determining the eligibility of Class Members to receive payments, determining the size of each Allowed Claim, distributing the payments to Class Members with Allowed Claims, preparing a distribution report along with the monetary amount of each Class Member's share of the settlement in accordance with Paragraph 10 of the Agreement, and transferring to Defendant the unclaimed portion of the Net Settlement Fund as required by Paragraph 10 of the Agreement. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall also be responsible for: (a) recording receipt of all responses to the Notice; (b) preserving until further Order of this Court any and all written communications from Class members or any other person in response to the Notice; and (c) making any necessary filings with the Internal Revenue Service. The Claims-Escrow Administrator may

respond to inquiries, but copies of all written answers to such inquiries will be maintained and made available for inspection by all counsel in this action.

10. All papers in support of the settlement shall be filed with the Court and served on the other parties no later than seven (7) days prior to the Settlement Hearing.

11. The Court expressly reserves its right to adjourn the Settlement Hearing without any further notice to members of the Class. The Court retains jurisdiction of this action to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed settlement herein.

12. All pretrial and trial proceedings in the Lawsuit are stayed and suspended until further order of the Court. Pending the final determination of the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the settlements, no Plaintiff or member of the class may institute or commence any action or proceeding against Defendant asserting any of the claims asserted in this action.

13. Subject to the terms of Paragraphs 14-15 of this Order, if the Agreement and Settlement is disapproved, in part or in whole, by the Court, or any appellate court; if dismissal of the Lawsuit with prejudice against Defendant cannot be accomplished; if a final judgment on the terms set forth in Paragraph 25 of the Agreement is not entered within one hundred eighty (180) days after the entry of this Order; if the Settlement Date defined in Paragraph 5 of the Agreement does not occur prior to February 1, 2022; or if the Agreement and Settlement otherwise is not fully consummated and effected:

a. The Agreement shall have no further force and effect, and it and all negotiations and proceedings connected therewith shall be without prejudice to the rights of Defendant, the Named Plaintiff and the Class;

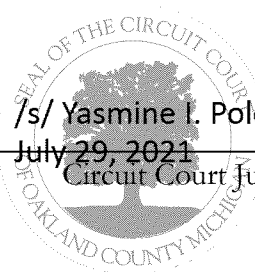
b. Any discussions, offers, negotiations, or information exchanged in association with the Settlement shall not be discoverable or offered into evidence or used in the Lawsuit or any other action or proceeding for any purpose. No publicly disseminated information regarding the Settlement,

including, without limitation, the Notice, court filings, orders and public statements may be used as evidence, or construed as admissions or concessions of fact by or against either Party on any point of fact or law. In addition, neither the fact of, nor any documents relating to, either Party's withdrawal from the Settlement, any failure of the Court to approve the Settlement, and/or any objections or interventions may be used as evidence or construed as an admission or concession by the City or by Plaintiff on any point of fact or law. All Parties to the Lawsuit shall stand in the same position as if the Agreement had not been negotiated, made or filed with the Court; and

c. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall immediately return to Defendant any and all monies provided by Defendant for settlement purposes.

14. Defendant and Class Counsel may, in their sole and exclusive discretion, elect to waive any or all of the terms, conditions or requirements stated in Paragraph 13 of this Order. Such waiver must be memorialized in a writing signed by Defendant and/or its counsel and/or Class Counsel and delivered via certified mail to all counsel of record, or it will have no force or effect.

15. Defendant and Class Counsel may, in their sole and exclusive discretion, elect to extend any or all of the deadlines stated in Paragraph 13 of this Order. Such extension must be memorialized in a writing signed by Defendant and/or its counsel and/or Class Counsel and delivered via certified mail to all counsel of record, or it will have no force or effect.

The seal of the Circuit Court of Oakland County, Michigan, is a circular emblem. It features a central tree with a large, spreading canopy and a thick trunk. The words "SEAL OF THE CIRCUIT COURT" are written in a circle around the top, and "OF OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN" around the bottom. The date "July 29, 2021" is stamped over the tree.

/s/ Yasmine I. Poles
July 29, 2021
Circuit Court Judge

mz

STIPULATED TO AND AGREED:

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KH1689006

EXHIBIT - 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

JOSEPH G. GRIFFIN, and
CHRISTINA GRIFFIN, individually and
as representatives of a class of similarly-
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Hon. Yasmine I. Poles

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CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made this 15th day of July, 2021, by and between the following (collectively referred to as the “Parties”): Plaintiffs Joseph G. Griffin and Christina Griffin (“Named Plaintiffs”), individually, and on behalf of a certified class of similarly situated persons and entities (as more specifically defined in Paragraph 2 below, the “Class”), acting

by and through their counsel, Kickham Hanley PLLC and Olson PLC (“Class Counsel”), and Defendant City of Madison Heights, Michigan (the “City”).

WHEREAS, an action has been commenced in the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court (Oakland County) titled *Joseph G. Griffin et. al. v. City of Madison Heights*, Case No. 2020-181196-CZ, presiding Judge Yasmine I. Poles, challenging mandatory stormwater service charges (the “Stormwater Charges”) the City imposes upon owners of real property to recover certain costs assessed upon the City by Oakland County. Plaintiffs brought these claims on behalf of themselves and a class of all others similarly situated.

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs owned improved real property situated in the City of Madison Heights, Oakland County, Michigan and have incurred and/or paid the Charges imposed by the City. Plaintiffs contend that: (a) the Stormwater Charges are not proper user fees, but taxes wrongfully imposed by the City to raise revenue in violation of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan constitution of 1963; (b) the Stormwater Charges violate the Prohibited Taxes By Cities And Villages Act, MCL 141.91 because the Stormwater Charges are not ad valorem taxes, but are taxes imposed, levied, or collected after January 1, 1964; (c) the City has been unjustly enriched by the collection and retention of the Stormwater Charges and/or is required to refund the Stormwater Charges under a theory of assumpsit; and (d) that Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have been harmed by the City’s collection and retention of the Stormwater Charges.

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs seek a judgment from the Court against the City that would order and direct the City to refund all Stormwater Charges to which Plaintiffs and the class are entitled and any other appropriate relief. The City maintains that the City’s imposition of the Stormwater Charges is proper and lawful. Thus, the City denies Plaintiffs’ claims in their entirety. The City specifically denies that the Stormwater Charges are a tax, denies that it has been unjustly enriched by collecting the Stormwater Charges, and further denies that it retains the Stormwater Charges. The City denies

that the Plaintiffs or any other property owners that are similarly situated have been harmed by the City's collection of the Stormwater Charges. The City contends that it should prevail in the lawsuit and denies that Plaintiffs and the class members are entitled to a refund of the City's lawfully-assessed Stormwater Charges. **The Court has made no rulings concerning the merits of the lawsuit at this time.**

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2021, Judge Poles entered an Opinion and Order certifying the lawsuit as a class action. The Class consists of all persons or entities which/which have paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges at any time after June 30, 2016.

WHEREAS, the Named Plaintiffs in the Lawsuit and Class Counsel have been provided with discovery and have conducted investigations into the facts of the Lawsuit, have made a thorough study of the legal principles applicable to the claims in the Lawsuit, and have concluded that a class settlement with the City in the amount and on the terms hereinafter set forth (the "Settlement") is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of the Class.

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to compromise their differences and to resolve and release all of the claims asserted by the Named Plaintiff and the Class in the Lawsuit.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants and agreements herein, and intending to be legally bound, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT

1. The Parties agree to cooperate in good faith, to use their best efforts, and to take all steps necessary to implement and effectuate this Agreement.

CLASS CERTIFICATION

2. The Court has already certified a class consisting of all persons or entities who/which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges at any time after June 30, 2016. For settlement purposes only, the parties will agree that the Court will certify a class (the "Class") consisting of all

persons or entities who/which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges at any time between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2021 (the “Class Period”) and who do not request to be excluded from the Class pursuant to MCR 3.501(D). The City and its elected officials are excluded from the Class. This Agreement is intended to settle all of the claims of the members of the Class (“Class Members”).

SETTLEMENT FUND

3. The City will create a Settlement Fund (the “Settlement Fund”) in the amount of Two Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,600,000) in order to resolve the claims of the Class. The Settlement Fund will be used to provide credits and refunds to the Class (the “Credits” and “Refunds”) as described in Paragraph 10 below, compensation and expense reimbursement to Class Counsel, and any incentive award to Plaintiffs, as determined by the Court. No more than 14 days after the Court enters an order preliminarily approving this Settlement, the City shall deposit One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) of the Settlement Fund into the IOLTA Trust Account of Class Counsel, Kickham Hanley PLLC (“KH”). Seven days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the Settlement as described in Paragraph 25, the City will deposit Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) of the Settlement Fund into the IOLTA Trust Account of KH. The City shall then retain One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000) (the “City Administered Portion”) of the Settlement Fund in order to fund the Credits described in Paragraph 10(b) below, subject to the reconciliation process described in Paragraph 10(f) below. The Settlement Fund shall be administered by KH (the “Claims-Escrow Administrator”) with the assistance of a third-party administrator (“TPA”). The expenses the Claims-Escrow Administrator incurs for the TPA’s services shall be recoverable by the Claims-Escrow Administrator as set forth in Paragraphs 20 and 24 and payable out of the Settlement Fund. The Claims-Escrow Administrator may from time to time apply to the Court for instructions or orders concerning the administration of the Settlement Fund and may apply to the Internal Revenue Service for such rulings with respect

thereto as it may consider appropriate. Disbursements from the Settlement Fund by the Claims-Escrow Administrator and the City shall be expressly conditioned upon an order of the Court permitting such disbursements.

4. Except as set forth in Paragraphs 27 through 30 of this Agreement, the Class and Class Counsel shall not claim any attorneys' fees or costs.

5. Subject to Paragraph 31, distribution of the Settlement Fund shall occur no later than thirty (30) days after the completion of the last of all of the following (the "Settlement Date"):

a. entry of an order of final judicial approval by the Court approving this Agreement pursuant to Michigan Court Rule 3.501(E);

b. entry of an order adjudicating Class Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and costs;

c. entry of a final judgment of dismissal of the Lawsuit with prejudice with respect to the claims of the Named Plaintiff and all Class Members, except those putative Class Members who have requested to be excluded from the Class pursuant to MCR 3.501(D);

d. the City's deposit of the Settlement Fund described in Paragraph 3 above;

e. the Court's entry of the Distribution Order described in Paragraph 11 below; and

f. the expiration of the 21-day time for appeal of all of the aforementioned orders and judgments and final resolution of any and all appeals of such orders and judgments, but only if any Class Member files a timely objection to any of the aforementioned orders and judgments.

6. As more specifically discussed below, and as provided in Paragraph 5, the Settlement Fund shall be distributed only pursuant to and in accordance with orders of the Court, as appropriate.

7. In the event that this Settlement fails to be consummated pursuant to this Agreement or fails to secure final approval by the Court for any reason or is terminated pursuant to Paragraph 31, the Settlement Fund shall immediately be returned to the City.

DISTRIBUTION OF SETTLEMENT FUND

8. The “Net Settlement Fund” to be distributed to the Class is the Settlement Fund less the combined total of: (a) attorneys’ fees and any incentive award to the Class representatives awarded pursuant to Paragraphs 27-30; and (b) Class Counsel and Claims-Escrow Administrator expenses reimbursed pursuant to Paragraphs 20, 24, and 27-30.

9. Each Class Member’s share in the Net Settlement Fund shall be referred to herein as his, her or its “Pro Rata Share,” and each Class Member’s Pro Rata Share of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed via a credit or refund payment. The Pro Rata Share to be allocated to each Class Member shall be determined according to Paragraph 10(g).

10. All Class Members may participate in the Settlement by receiving from the Net Settlement Fund a Credit or a cash distribution payment (i.e., “Refund”) (as explained in Paragraph 10(b)-(e)). In particular, Class Members who are Class Members as of June 30, 2021 and remain current water and sewer customers of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement as described in Paragraph 25 are eligible to receive Credits to their water, sewer and stormwater utility accounts. Further, any Class Members who have unpaid balances for the City’s water, sewer and/or stormwater charges that are more than 30 days past due as of June 30,

2021 will have their Credits reduced by the amount of the past due balance. The Net Settlement Fund shall be distributed as follows:

a. Within 14 days after the Court's entry of an order preliminarily approving this Settlement, but not before July 30, 2021, the City shall provide the Claims-Escrow Administrator with billing and payment records in electronic form that, at a minimum, provide for the Class Period (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021) the service address, account number, and billing and payment history for each person or entity which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges. The Claims-Escrow Administrator will provide notice to the Class Members through first-class mail. The Claims-Escrow Administrator is authorized to utilize the services of the TPA in disseminating notices to the Class. Such forms of notice will not be required to be exclusive and the Claims-Escrow Administrator will be allowed to use any appropriate means to give notice to Class Members of the Settlement and the opportunity to obtain a refund. Class Counsel will also provide newspaper publication notice to the Class as provided in Paragraph 24.

b. All Class Members who are Class Members as of June 30, 2021 and remain current water and sewer customers of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement as described in Paragraph 25 are eligible to receive Credits against their water, sewer and stormwater utility accounts. Class Members do not need to do anything to receive a Credit, but Class Members who have unpaid balances for the City's water, sewer and/or stormwater charges that are more 30 days past due as of June 30, 2021 will have their Credits reduced by the amount of their utility accounts' past due balances.

c. Only Class Members who are no longer water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement as described in Paragraph 25 are eligible to receive a distribution of cash via check (a "Refund") from

the Net Settlement Fund. To qualify to receive a Refund from the Net Settlement Fund, these Class Members will be required to submit sworn claims (the “Claims”) which identify their names, addresses, and the periods of time in which they incurred or paid the Stormwater Charges in order to participate in the Settlement. Class Members who submit Claims will hereafter be referred to as the “Claiming Class Members.” The Claiming Class Members will be required to submit those claims no later than 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of this settlement, as described in Paragraph 25 (the “Claims Period”).

d. The foregoing is a general outline. The TPA will assist in implementing a process designed to minimize fraud and maximize dissemination of the refunds to the appropriate parties. In the event that two or more parties claim to have paid or incurred Stormwater Charges for the same account, after notifying the City of the competing claims and considering any City information, documents, and recommendation provided in response to the notice, the Claims-Escrow Administrator shall have the absolute discretion to determine which party or parties are entitled to participate in the settlement, and the City shall cooperate by providing information in its possession concerning the disputed property.

e. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall calculate each Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Fund (the “Pro Rata Share”). The City will distribute the Pro Rata Shares of the Net Settlement Fund via the application of a Credit against a Class Member’s water, sewer and stormwater utility account for Class Members who (1) are water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement as described in Paragraph 25 or (2) do not submit timely Claims as set forth in Paragraph 10(c). The Credit will reflect the amount of the Class Member’s Pro Rata Share, which will be applied first to any unpaid charges in the Class Member’s water, sewer and stormwater utility account and then against any future charges that accrue in in the Class Member’s water, sewer and stormwater utility

account until the Credit is exhausted. All other Class Members (i.e., the Claiming Class Members who submit a timely and completed Claim) are eligible for a Refund reflecting their Pro Rata Shares of the Net Settlement Fund. The Claims-Escrow Administrator will distribute the amount of the Refund, if any, to the Claiming Class Members.

f. Once the claims process described in this Section is completed, and the Court determines the amount of the Net Settlement Fund by setting the amount of the Attorneys' Fees and costs to be awarded to Class Counsel and the amount of any incentive award, Class Counsel and the City will reconcile the amounts deposited in KH's IOLTA Trust Account with the City Administered Portion to accurately reflect the total amount of Refunds and Credits distributable to Class Members from the Net Settlement Fund. If the Credits payable from the Net Settlement Fund exceed the City Administered Portion, KH shall remit from its IOLTA Trust Account an amount sufficient to allow the City to fully fund the Credits. On the other hand, if the Refunds payable (together with the Attorneys' Fees, costs and incentive award) exceed \$1,000,000, the City shall transfer additional funds from the City Administered Portion to the KH IOLTA Trust Account in order to fully fund the Refunds.

g. The Claims-Escrow Administrator is authorized to utilize the services of the TPA to calculate the Pro Rata Shares distributable to the Claiming Class Members. The size of each Class Member's Pro Rata Share shall be determined by (1) calculating the total amount of Charges the Class Member paid during the Class Period and then (2) dividing that number by the total amount of Charges the City collected from Class Members during the Class Period and then (3) multiplying that fraction by the amount of the Net Settlement Fund.

11. No later than 21 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of this Settlement (as described in Paragraph 25), the Claims-Escrow Administrator shall submit to the Court a report

setting forth the proposed disposition of the Net Settlement Fund including, without limitation, a list of Claiming Class Members and the percentage of the Net Settlement Fund to be paid to each such Claiming Class Member, and a list of properties associated with Non-Claiming Class Members and the percentage of the Net Settlement to be credited to the water, sewer and stormwater utility account of each Non-Claiming Class Member (the “Distribution Report”). Upon filing of the Distribution Report, the Claims-Escrow Administrator shall serve copies of the Distribution Report on Counsel for the City.

a. The City shall have 7 days to object to the Distribution Report. All objections shall be resolved by the Court at or before the final approval hearing. If the City does not timely object to the Distribution Report, the City is deemed to have approved the Distribution Report.

b. The Parties acknowledge that, because Class Members may have moved or ceased doing business during the Class Period, complete and current address information may not be available for all Class Members. The City, Named Plaintiff, counsel for any Parties, the Claims-Escrow Administrator and the TPA shall not have any liability for or to any member of the Class with respect to determinations of the amount of any distribution of the Settlement Fund to any Class Member or determinations concerning the names or addresses of the Class Members.

12. No later than 30 days after the Settlement Date, the City shall distribute and apply the Credits owed to Class Members under this Agreement. Also, no later than 30 days after the Settlement Date, the Claims-Escrow Administrator shall distribute from the Net Settlement Fund the Pro Rata Share of each Claiming Class Member per the Distribution Report. The Claims-Escrow Administrator is authorized to send checks reflecting Refunds to Claiming Class Members to the addresses provided by the Claiming Class Members in their sworn Claims.

13. The Claims-Escrow Administrator is further authorized to transfer the Net Settlement Fund, less the City Administered Portion, to the TPA so that the TPA can distribute Refunds in accordance with this Agreement.

14. The amounts of money covered by checks distributing the Refunds which: (a) are returned and cannot be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service after the Claims-Escrow Administrator (i) confirms that the checks were mailed to the identified addresses, and (ii) re-mails any checks if errors were made or it becomes aware of an alternative address or payee; or (b) have not been cashed within six (6) months of mailing, shall be refunded to the City within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the six (6) month period; and the Class Members to whom such checks were mailed shall be forever barred from obtaining any payment from the Settlement Fund.

15. The City shall deposit any refund of money under Paragraph 14 in its water and sewer fund and utilize any refund monies solely for the payment of the Oakland County stormwater charges billed to the City.

16. Within thirty (30) days after the date on which the remaining Net Settlement Fund is distributed back to the City, the Claims-Escrow Administrator shall file with the Court and serve on counsel for the Parties a document setting forth the names and addresses of, and the amounts paid to, each distributee of funds from the Settlement Fund together with a list of Claiming Class Members entitled to receive a Pro Rata Share but whose distribution checks have been returned or have not been cashed.

17. The City may not include any discrete component of cost in its water and sewer rates or its stormwater rates to reimburse itself for the amounts used to finance the Settlement Fund.

18. The Class Members shall release the City as provided in Paragraph 26 below.

19. The Lawsuit will be dismissed with prejudice.

CLAIMS-ESCROW ADMINISTRATOR

20. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall not receive a separate fee for its services as Claims-Escrow Administrator. Because Class Counsel is acting as the Claims-Escrow Administrator, the fee awarded to Class Counsel shall be deemed to include compensation for its service as Claims-Escrow Administrator. The Claims-Escrow Administrator, however, shall be entitled to be reimbursed for its out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the performance of its duties (including but not limited to the TPA's charges), which shall be paid solely from the Settlement Fund.

21. The Claims-Escrow Administrator, with the assistance of the TPA, shall have the responsibilities set forth in this Agreement, including, without limitation, holding the Settlement Fund in escrow, determining the eligibility of Class Members to receive Payments and Credits, determining the Pro Rata Shares, distributing the Payments to Class Members receiving a Pro Rata Share, filing a Distribution Report consistent with Paragraph 11 and transferring to the City portions of the Net Settlement Fund as required by Paragraph 10(c). The Claims-Escrow Administrator, with the assistance of the TPA, shall also be responsible for: (a) recording receipt of all responses to the notice; (b) preserving until further Order of the Court any and all written communications from Class Members or any other person in response to the notice; and (c) making any necessary filings with the Internal Revenue Service. The Claims-Escrow Administrator may respond to inquiries, but copies of all written answers to such inquiries will be maintained and made available for inspection by all counsel in this Lawsuit. The Claims-Escrow Administrator may delegate some or all of these responsibilities to the TPA except only the Claims-Escrow Administrator may determine eligibility of Class Members to receive Payments and Credits.

22. Any findings of fact of the Claims-Escrow Administrator and/or the TPA shall be made solely for the purposes of the allocation and distribution of the Pro Rata Shares, and, in

accordance with Paragraph 35, shall not be admissible for any purpose in any judicial proceeding, except as required to determine whether the claim of any Class Member should be allowed in whole or in part.

NOTICE AND APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT

23. As soon as practicable, but in no event later than five (5) days after the execution of this Agreement, Class Counsel and Counsel for the City shall submit this Agreement to the Court, either by stipulation or joint motion, pursuant to Michigan Court Rule 3.501, for the Court's preliminary approval, and shall request an Order of the Court, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit "B," including the following terms:

a. scheduling of a Settlement approval hearing to be held as soon as practicable after the entry of such Order but in no event later than one hundred twenty (120) days thereafter to determine the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of this Agreement and the Settlement; whether the Agreement and Settlement should be approved by the Court; and whether to award the attorneys' fees and expenses requested by Class Counsel;

b. directing that notice, substantially in the form of Exhibit "C," be given to the members of the Class advising them of the following:

i. the terms of the proposed Settlement consented to by the Named Plaintiffs and the City;

ii. the scheduling of a hearing for final approval of the Agreement and Settlement;

iii. the rights of the members of the Class to appear at the hearing to object to approval of the proposed Settlement or the requested attorneys' fees and expenses, provided that, if they choose to appear, they must file and serve at least sixty (60) days prior to the

hearing written objections that set forth the name of this matter as defined in the Notice, the objector's full name, address and telephone number, an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Class Member, all grounds for the objection including any known legal support for the objection, the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement in the past five years and a caption of each case in which an objection was filed, the identity of all counsel representing the objector at the hearing, a statement confirming whether the objector intends to appear and/or testify at the hearing (along with a disclosure of all testifying witnesses) and the signature of the objector (not just the objector's attorney);

iv. the nature of the release to be provided to the City upon approval of the Agreement and Settlement;

v. the binding effect on all Class Members of the judgment to be entered should the Court approve the Agreement and Settlement; and

vi. the right of members of the Class to opt out of the Class, the procedures for doing so, and the deadlines for doing so, including the deadline with respect to filing and/or serving written notification of a decision to opt out of the Class (such deadline must be at least sixty (60) days prior to the hearing);

c. providing that the manner of such notice shall constitute due and sufficient notice of the hearing to all persons entitled to receive such notice and requiring that proof of such notice be filed at or prior to the hearing; and

d. appointing Kickham Hanley PLLC as Claims-Escrow Administrator.

24. Notice to Class Members of the proposed settlement shall be the responsibility of Class Counsel pursuant to orders of the Court. Class Counsel shall be entitled to be reimbursed for the cost of such notice from the Settlement Fund, and Class Counsel shall make application for

costs of notice to the Court at least seven (7) days before the Settlement approval hearing with the Court approving any costs at the time of the Settlement approval hearing. Such notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “C,” and mailed by Class Counsel (or the TPA) to the Class Members at the addresses provided by the City within fourteen (14) days of Class Counsel’s receipt of the billing and payment information described in Paragraph 10(a) above. Class Counsel will also provide publication notice to the Class, which shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and shall be published in the Detroit News on two occasions at least 30 days prior to the end of the Claims Period.

25. After the notice discussed in Paragraphs 23 and 24 has been mailed, the Court shall, consistent with Paragraph 23, conduct a hearing at which it rules on any objections to this Agreement and a joint motion for entry of a Final Order approving of this Settlement and Agreement. If the Court approves this Agreement pursuant to Michigan Court Rule 3.501(E), a final judgment, substantially in the form of Exhibit “D,” shall be entered by the Court: (a) finding that the notice provided to Class Members is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and satisfies the due process requirements of the United States and Michigan Constitutions; (b) approving the Settlement set forth in this Agreement as fair, reasonable, and adequate; (c) dismissing with prejudice and without costs to any Party any and all claims of the Class Members against the City, excluding only those persons who in timely fashion requested exclusion from the Class; (d) awarding Class Counsel attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses as granted by the Court upon motion of Class Counsel, and awarding the Named Plaintiffs an incentive award as granted by the Court upon motion of Class Counsel; (e) reserving jurisdiction over all matters relating to the administration of this Agreement, including allocation and distribution of the Settlement Fund; and (f) retaining jurisdiction to protect and effectuate this judgment.

RELEASE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

26. On the Settlement Date, each Class Member who has not timely requested exclusion therefrom shall be deemed to have individually executed, on behalf of the Class Member and his or her heirs, successors and assigns, if any, the following Release and Covenant Not To Sue, and the Final Order and Judgment to be entered by the Court in connection with the approval of this Settlement shall so provide:

In executing the Release and Covenant Not To Sue in the Agreement, each Class Member, on behalf of himself, herself or itself, and his, her or its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, members, shareholders, predecessors, heirs, administrators, officers, directors, successors, assigns, and any person the Class Member represents, intending to be legally bound hereby, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby absolutely, fully and forever releases, relieves, remises and discharges the City, and each of its successors and assigns, present and former agents, representatives, employees, insurers, affiliated entities, attorneys and administrators, of and from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, accounts, understandings, contracts, agreements, controversies, judgments, consequential damages, compensatory damages, punitive damages, claims, liabilities, and demands of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, which were or could have been brought in the Lawsuit and/or arise from the beginning of time through December 31, 2021 concerning (1) the City's calculation or assessment of the Stormwater Charges; (2) the components of costs included in the Stormwater Charges; (3) the City's efforts to charge and/or collect Stormwater Charges; and/or (4) the methodology or means employed by the City to fund payment of the stormwater charges that Oakland County assesses upon the City. In executing the Release and Covenant Not to Sue, each Class Member also covenants that: (a) except for actions or suits based upon breaches of the terms of this

Agreement or to enforce rights provided for in this Agreement, he, she or it will refrain from commencing any action or suit, or prosecuting any pending action or suit, in law or in equity, against the City on account of any action or cause of action released hereby; (b) none of the claims released under the Release and Covenant Not To Sue has been assigned to any other party; and (c) the Class Member accepts and assumes the risk that if any fact or circumstance is found, suspected, or claimed hereinafter to be other than or different from the facts or circumstances now believed to be true, the Release and Covenant Not To Sue shall be and remain effective notwithstanding any such difference in any such facts or circumstances.

ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES

27. Class Counsel shall be paid an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses from the Settlement Fund. For purposes of an award of attorneys' fees and costs, the Settlement Fund shall be deemed to be a "common fund," as that term is used in the context of class action settlements. Class Counsel shall not make an application for any attorneys' fees and costs which are in addition to the "common fund" attorneys' fees and costs contemplated by this Agreement.

28. The amount of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses to be paid to Class Counsel shall be determined by the Court applying legal standards and principles applicable to awards of attorneys' fees and costs from common fund settlements in class action cases. Class Counsel agrees that it will not seek an award of attorneys' fees in excess of Thirty-Three Percent (33%) of the Settlement Fund. Class Counsel will file and serve a motion to approve attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, and to approve an incentive award to the Named Plaintiff, no later than seven (7) days before the hearing for final approval of the Settlement. The City will not join in that motion, however the City will not oppose Class Counsel's motion, provided the motion complies with this Agreement. The City will also not oppose any request for an incentive award on behalf of the Named Plaintiffs, in an

amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) each, to be paid solely from the Settlement Fund.

29. The award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses to be paid from the Settlement Fund to Class Counsel pursuant to Paragraph 28 does not include any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Kickham Hanley PLLC acting in its capacity as Claims-Escrow Administrator. Kickham Hanley PLLC shall make a separate application for such expenses, which shall be paid solely from the Settlement Fund.

30. The Court shall determine and approve the award of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel, reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the Claims-Escrow Administrator, and any incentive award to Named Plaintiffs in connection with the final approval hearing. The attorneys' fees, costs and expenses awarded to Class Counsel and the Claims-Escrow Administrator and any incentive award to Named Plaintiffs shall be paid from the Settlement Fund upon the Settlement Date.

TERMINATION

31. If this Agreement and Settlement is disapproved, in part or in whole, by the Court, or any appellate court; if dismissal of the Lawsuit with prejudice against the City cannot be accomplished; if the Court does not enter an Order of Preliminary Approval substantially in the form attached as Exhibit "B" within twenty-eight (28) days after its submission to the Court; if a final judgment on the terms set forth in Paragraph 25 is not entered within one hundred eighty (180) days after the entry of the Order substantially in the form attached as Exhibit "B"; if the Settlement Date defined in Paragraph 5 does not occur prior to February 1, 2022; if the Court (or any appellate court) alters the terms of this Settlement in any material way not acceptable to the City or to Class Counsel; or if this Agreement and Settlement otherwise is not fully consummated and effected:

a. This Agreement shall have no further force and effect and it and all negotiations and proceedings connected therewith shall be without prejudice to the rights of the City, the Named Plaintiff and the Class;

b. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall immediately return the Settlement Fund to the City; and

c. The Parties shall return to the status quo ante in the Lawsuit as if the Parties had not entered into this Agreement, and all of the Parties' respective pre-Settlement claims and defenses will be preserved.

32. The City and Class Counsel may, in their sole and exclusive discretion, elect to waive any or all of the terms, conditions or requirements stated in Paragraph 31. Such waiver must be memorialized in a writing signed by the City and/or its Counsel and Class Counsel and delivered via certified mail to all counsel or it will have no force or effect.

33. The City and Class Counsel may, in their sole and exclusive discretion, elect to extend any or all of the deadlines stated in Paragraph 31. Such extension must be memorialized in a writing signed by the City and/or its Counsel and/or Class Counsel and delivered via certified mail to all counsel of record, or it will have no force or effect.

34. In the event the Settlement is terminated in accordance with Paragraph 31, any discussions, offers, negotiations, or information exchanged in association with this Settlement shall not be discoverable or offered into evidence or used in the Lawsuit or any other action or proceeding for any purpose. In such event, all Parties to the Lawsuit shall stand in the same position as if this Agreement had not been negotiated, made, or filed with the Court.

USE OF THIS AGREEMENT

35. This Agreement, the Class Period, the Settlement provided for herein (whether or not consummated), and any proceedings taken pursuant to this Agreement shall not be:

a. construed by anyone for any purpose whatsoever as, or deemed to be, evidence of a presumption, concession or an admission by the City of the truth of any fact alleged or the validity of any claims, or of the deficiency or waiver of any defense that has or could have been asserted in the Lawsuit, or of any liability, fault or wrongdoing on the part of the City; or

b. offered or received as evidence of a presumption, concession or an admission of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing, or referred to for any other reason by the Named Plaintiff, Class Members, or Class Counsel in the Lawsuit, or any other person or entity not a party to this Agreement in any other action or proceeding other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement; or

c. construed by anyone for any purpose whatsoever as an admission or concession that the Settlement amount represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial, or the applicable time frame for any purported amounts of recovery; or

d. construed more strictly against one Party than the other, this Agreement having been prepared by Counsel for the Parties as a result of arms-length negotiations between the Parties (including two meetings facilitated by a neutral, third-party mediator).

WARRANTIES

36. Class Counsel further warrants that in its opinion the Settlement Fund represents fair consideration for and an adequate settlement of the claims of the Class released herein.

37. The undersigned have secured the consents of all persons necessary to authorize the execution of this Agreement and related documents and they are fully authorized to enter into and execute this Agreement on behalf of the Parties.

38. Class Counsel deems this Agreement to be fair and reasonable, and has arrived at this Agreement in arms-length negotiations taking into account all relevant factors, present or potential.

39. The Parties intend this Agreement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes between them with respect to the claims giving rise to the Lawsuit.

40. The Parties have relied upon the advice and representation of counsel, selected by them, concerning their respective legal liability for the claims hereby released. The Parties have read and understand fully this Agreement, and have been fully advised as to the legal effect thereof by their respective Counsel and intend to be legally bound by the same.

BINDING EFFECT AND ENFORCEMENT

41. All covenants, terms, conditions and provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon, inure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by the respective predecessors and successors, and past and present assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, trustees, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, parents (and subsidiaries thereof), partnerships and partners, and all of their officers, directors, agents, employees and attorneys, both past and present, of each of the Parties hereto. It is understood that the terms of this paragraph are contractual and not a mere recital.

42. This Agreement, with the attached Exhibits A through D, constitutes a single, integrated written contract and sets forth the entire understanding of the Parties. Any previous discussions, agreements, or understandings between or among the Parties regarding the subject

matter herein are hereby merged into and superseded by this Agreement. No covenants, agreements, representations, or warranties of any kind whatsoever have been made by any Party hereto, except as provided for herein.

43. All of the Exhibits attached hereto are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

44. This Agreement shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

45. Before filing any motion in the Court raising a dispute arising out of or related to this Agreement, the Parties shall consult with each other and discuss submitting any disputes to non-binding mediation. The Parties shall also certify to the Court that they have consulted and either have been unable to resolve the dispute in mediation or are unwilling to submit the dispute to mediation and the reasons why.

46. The Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement, and the Parties shall submit to jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the settlement reflected in this Agreement.

MODIFICATION AND EXECUTION

47. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, all of which shall constitute a single, entire agreement.

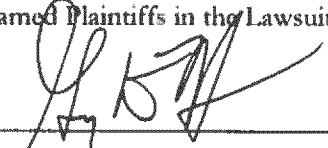
48. Change or modification of this Agreement, or waiver of any of its provisions, shall be valid only if contained in a writing executed on behalf of all the Parties hereto by their duly authorized representatives.

49. This Agreement shall become effective and binding (subject to all terms and conditions herein) upon the Parties when it has been executed by the undersigned representatives of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the Parties executes this Agreement through his, her or its duly authorized representatives.

KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC

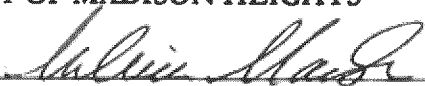
In its capacity as Class Counsel and on behalf of the Named Plaintiffs in the Lawsuit and the Class

By:  _____

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300
Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 544-1500

Dated: 7/15/2021

CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS

By:  _____
Melissa Marsh

Its: City Manager

Dated: 7/16/21

By:  _____
Cheryl Rottmann

Its: City Clerk

Dated: 7/16/21

EXHIBIT A

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION**

IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021, AND ARE A CURRENT WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE CREDITED YOUR PRO RATA SHARE FROM THE SETTLEMENT FUND WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ACTION BY YOU.

IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021, ARE NO LONGER A WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY AND WISH TO RECEIVE A CASH REFUND, IF YOU QUALIFY FOR SUCH REFUND, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ATTACHED CLAIM FORM ON OR BEFORE _____, 2021 AND MAIL IT TO _____, OR EMAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO _____, OR SUBMIT AN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLINE AT _____.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CASH REFUND AS PART OF THIS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A WATER AND SEWER BILLING ACCOUNT WITH THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE YOUR PRO RATA SHARE IN THE FORM OF A CREDIT. YOU MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THE SETTLEMENT FUND.

TO: All persons and entities who/which have paid the City of Madison Heights (the “City”) or incurred the Stormwater Charge at any time during the class period, which is from July 1, 2016 through the present.

You are hereby notified that a proposed settlement in the amount of \$ 2,600,000 has been reached with the City in a class action lawsuit pending in Oakland County Circuit Court titled *Griffin. v. City of Madison Heights*, Case No. 2020-181196-CZ, presiding Judge Yasmine I. Poles (the “Lawsuit”), challenging the mandatory stormwater service charge the City imposes upon owners of real property to recover certain costs assessed upon the City by Oakland County. The amounts Plaintiffs and the Class paid or incurred for stormwater disposal between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2021 shall be referred to herein as the “Stormwater Charges.”

Plaintiffs contend that: (a) the Stormwater Charge is not a proper user fee but a tax wrongfully imposed by the City to raise revenue in violation of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan constitution of 1963; (b) the Stormwater Charge violates the Prohibited Taxes By Cities And Villages Act, MCL 141.91 because the Stormwater Charge is not an ad valorem tax, but is a tax imposed, levied, or collected after January 1, 1964; (c) the City has been unjustly enriched by the collection and retention of the Stormwater Charges and/or is required to refund the Stormwater Charges under a theory of assumpsit; and (d) that Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have been harmed by the City’s collection and retention of Stormwater Charges.

The Plaintiffs sought a judgment from the Court against the City that would order and direct the City to refund all Stormwater Charges to which Plaintiffs and the class are entitled and any other appropriate relief. The City maintains that the City's imposition of the Stormwater Charge is proper and lawful. Thus, the City denies Plaintiffs' claims in their entirety. The City specifically denies that the Stormwater Charge is a tax, denies that it has been unjustly enriched by collecting the Stormwater Charge, and further denies that it retains the Stormwater Charge. The City denies that the Plaintiffs or any other property owners that are similarly situated have been harmed by the City's collection of the Stormwater Charges. The City contends that it should prevail in the lawsuit and denies that the Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to a refund of the City's lawfully-assessed Stormwater Charges. **The Court has made no rulings concerning the merits of the lawsuit at this time.**

On February 25, 2021, Judge Poles entered an Opinion and Order certifying the lawsuit as a class action. You are receiving this notice because the City's records indicate that an individual or entity owning or residing at this property address paid or incurred the City's Stormwater Charge at some time after July 1, 2016 and are, therefore, a member of the class.

For settlement purposes, the parties have agreed that the Class will consist of all persons or entities who/which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2021 (the "Class"). The Settlement Agreement is intended to settle all of the claims of the Class.

The principal terms of the Settlement Agreement are as follows:

For the purposes of the proposed Settlement, the City expressly denies any and all allegations that it acted improperly, but, to avoid litigation costs, the City has agreed to create a settlement fund in the aggregate amount of Two Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,600,000) for the benefit of the Class (the "Settlement Amount"). The Settlement Amount will be utilized, with Court approval, to provide credits and refunds to the Class, and to pay Class Counsel an award of attorneys' fees, the total amount of which shall not exceed 33% of the Settlement Amount, and expenses for the conduct of the litigation.

The "Net Settlement Fund" is the Settlement Fund less the combined total of: (a) attorneys' fees and any incentive award to the Class representative awarded by the Court; and (b) Class Counsel and Claims-Escrow Administrator expenses reimbursed pursuant to the Settlement Agreement. The Net Settlement Fund shall be used to compensate Class Members as described below.

Each Class Member's share in the Net Settlement Fund shall be referred to herein as his, her or its "Pro Rata Share," and each Class Member's Pro Rata Share of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed via a refund payment or credit.

All Class Members may participate in the Settlement by receiving from the Net Settlement Fund a Credit or a cash distribution Refund (as defined in Paragraph 10 of the Settlement Agreement) that reflects the Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Fund ("Pro Rata Share"). The size of each Class

Member's Pro Rata Share shall be determined by (1) calculating the total amount of Charges the Class Member paid during the Class Period and then (2) dividing that number by the total amount of Charges the City collected from Class Members during the Class Period and then (3) multiplying that fraction by the amount of the Net Settlement Fund. Class Members who are Class Members as of June 30, 2021 and remain current water and sewer customers of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement (as described in Paragraph 25 of the Settlement Agreement) are eligible to receive a Credit to their water, sewer and stormwater utility accounts. To qualify to receive a Refund from the Net Settlement Fund, Class Members must no longer be water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City and must submit sworn claims (the "Claims") which identify their names, addresses, and the periods of time in which they paid the Stormwater Charges in order to participate in the Settlement. Class Members who submit Claims will hereafter be referred to as the "Claiming Class Members." The Claiming Class Members are required to submit those claims no later than 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of this settlement, as described in Paragraph 25 of the Settlement Agreement (the "Claims Period"). Only those Claiming Class Members who submit timely and completed Claims are eligible to receive a Refund. Any Class Members who have unpaid balances for water, sewer or stormwater charges that are more than 30 days past due as of June 30, 2021 will have their Credits reduced by the amount of the past due balance. No later than 30 days after the Settlement Date, the Claims-Escrow Administrator will distribute the amount of a Refund, if any, to the Claiming Class Member. Also, no later than 30 days after the Settlement Date, the City will distribute and apply the Credits owed to Class Members under the Settlement Agreement. The Credit will reflect the amount of the Class Member's Pro Rata Share, which will be applied first to any unpaid charges in the Class Member's water, sewer and stormwater utility account and then against any future charges in the Class Member's water, sewer and stormwater utility account until the Credit is exhausted.

It is very important for any Class Member who paid Stormwater Charges but who is no longer a water, sewer or stormwater customer of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement as described in Paragraph 25 of the Settlement Agreement to submit a Claim. The only way for Class Members who are no longer water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City to receive a portion of the Net Settlement Fund is for them to file Claims.

The City may not include any discrete component of cost in its water and sewer rates or its stormwater rates to reimburse itself for the amounts used to finance the Settlement Fund.

The Class Members shall release the City as provided in Paragraph 26 of the Settlement Agreement.

Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement may write to the Administrator, stating that they do not wish to participate in the Settlement and that they wish to retain

their right to file an action against the City. This proposed settlement should not be interpreted, in any way, as suggesting that the claims alleged against the City have legal or factual merit. The City has challenged the validity of Plaintiffs' claims. **This request for exclusion must be postmarked no later than _____, 2021 and mailed to: Kickham Hanley PLLC, 32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073 or emailed to khtemp@kickhamhanley.com.**

By remaining a Class Member, you will be bound by the terms of the proposed settlement and will be barred from bringing a separate action against the City for the claims asserted in the Lawsuit at your own expense through your own attorney. You will, however, receive your pro rata share of the Net Settlement Fund via a Refund or Credit. **Again, however, the only way for Class Members who are no longer water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City to receive a portion of the Net Settlement Fund is for them to file Claims.**

If you were to successfully pursue such a separate action to conclusion, recovery might be available to you which is not available in this class action settlement. Whether to remain a member of this class or to request exclusion from this class action to attempt to pursue a separate action at your own expense without the assistance of the City in this Action is a question you should ask your own attorney. Class Counsel cannot and will not advise you on this issue.

Pursuant to the Order of the Court dated _____, 2021, a Settlement Hearing will be held in the Oakland County Circuit Court, 1200 N. Telegraph Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48340 at ____ a.m. on _____, 2021, to determine whether the proposed Settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement dated _____, 2021, is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved by the Court, whether the Lawsuit should be dismissed pursuant to the Settlement, whether counsel for Plaintiffs and the Class should be awarded fees and expenses, and whether the Class Representatives should receive an incentive award. At the Settlement Hearing, any member of the Class may appear in person or through counsel, at a live hearing or online hearing, and be heard to the extent allowed by the Court in support of, or in opposition to, the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the proposed Settlement. However, no Class member will be heard in opposition to the proposed Settlement and no papers or briefs submitted by any such Class member will be accepted or considered by the Court unless on or before _____, 2021, such Class member serves by first class mail written objections that set forth the name of this matter as defined in the Notice, the objector's full name, address and telephone number, an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Class Member, all grounds for the objection including any known legal support for the objection, the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement in the past five years and a caption of each case in which an objection was filed, the identity of all counsel representing the objector at the hearing, a statement confirming whether the

objector intends to appear and/or testify at the hearing (along with a disclosure of all testifying witnesses) and the signature of the objector (not just the objector's attorney) upon each of the following attorneys:

Gregory D. Hanley
Kickham Hanley PLLC
300 Balmoral Centre
32121 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
(248) 544-1500
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

Sonal Hope Mithani
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC
101 N. Main Street, 7th Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 668-7786
Attorneys for Defendant

and has filed said notice, objections, papers and briefs, as to the settlement with the Clerk of the Oakland County Circuit Court. Any Class member who does not make and serve written objections in the manner provided above shall be deemed to have waived such objections and shall be forever foreclosed from making any objections (by appeal or otherwise) to the proposed Settlement.

For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the Lawsuit, including the terms of the proposed Settlement, you are referred to papers on file in the Lawsuit, which may be inspected during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court for Oakland County, Michigan. You may also view the Settlement Agreement and other important court documents at www.kickhamhanley.com.

AGAIN, IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021 AND ARE NO LONGER A WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CASH REFUND AS PART OF THIS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM. IF YOU QUALIFY FOR SUCH REFUND, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ATTACHED CLAIM FORM ON OR BEFORE _____, 2021 AND MAIL IT TO _____, OR EMAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO _____, OR SUMBIT AN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLINE AT _____.

IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021, AND ARE A CURRENT WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE CREDITED YOUR PRO RATA SHARE FROM THE SETTLEMENT FUND

EXHIBIT B

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

JOSEPH G. GRIFFIN, and
CHRISTINA GRIFFIN, individually and
as representatives of a class of similarly-
situated persons and entities,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS,
a Michigan municipal corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 2020-181196-CZ
Hon. Yasmine I. Poles

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)
Edward F. Kickham Jr. (P70332)
KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC
32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300
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(248) 544-1500
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(248) 540-3366
Attorney for Defendant

Christopher Olson (P58780)
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Attorney for Plaintiff and the Class

Sonal Hope Mithani (P51984)
Lara L. Kapalla-Bondi (P67667)
Emily G. Ladd (P83876)
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC
101 N. Main Street, 7th Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 668-7786
Attorneys for Defendant

**STIPULATED ORDER REGARDING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, NOTICE AND SCHEDULING**

At a session of said Court held in the
City of Mt. Clemens, County of Oakland,
State of Michigan on _____

PRESENT: HON. _____
Circuit Court Judge

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs commenced the above captioned lawsuit in Oakland County Circuit Court (the “Lawsuit”) challenging stormwater service charges (the “Stormwater Charges”) the City imposes upon owners of real property.

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs contend that: (a) the Stormwater Charge is not a proper user fee but a tax wrongfully imposed by the City to raise revenue in violation of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan constitution of 1963; (b) the Stormwater Charge violates the Prohibited Taxes By Cities And Villages Act, MCL 141.91 because the Stormwater Charge is not an ad valorem tax, but is a tax imposed, levied, or collected after January 1, 1964; (c) the City has been unjustly enriched by the collection and retention of the Stormwater Charges and/or is required to refund the Stormwater Charges under a theory of assumpsit; and (d) that Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have been harmed by the City’s collection and retention of Stormwater Charges.

WHEREAS, the Complaint alleges that the Lawsuit should be maintained as a class action on behalf of a class consisting of persons or entities who or which have paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges during the permitted time periods preceding the filing of this Lawsuit and/or at any time during the pendency of this action.

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2021, this Court entered an Opinion and Order certifying the lawsuit as a class action.

WHEREAS, the City denies that the City’s Stormwater Charges are improper; denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to any refunds of the Stormwater Charges; denies that it has been unjustly enriched or retained the Stormwater Charges; denies that it has intentionally or negligently committed any unlawful, wrongful or tortious acts or omissions, violated any constitutional provision or statute, or breached any duties of any kind whatsoever; denies that it is in any way liable to any member of the Class; and states that the claims asserted in the Lawsuit have no substance in fact or law, and the City has meritorious defenses to such claims; but, nevertheless, has agreed to enter into this Agreement to

avoid further expense, inconvenience, and distraction and risks of burdensome and protracted litigation, and to obtain total and final peace, satisfaction and protection from the claims asserted in the Lawsuit.

WHEREAS, the Named Plaintiffs in the Lawsuit and Class Counsel have been provided with discovery and have conducted investigations into the facts of the Lawsuit, have made a thorough study of the legal principles applicable to the claims in the Lawsuit, and have concluded that a class settlement with the City in the amount and on the terms hereinafter set forth (the “Settlement”) is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and is in the best interest of the Class.

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to compromise their differences and to resolve and release all of the claims asserted by the Named Plaintiffs and the Class in the Lawsuit.

WHEREAS Plaintiffs and Defendant are submitting this Stipulated Order for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement in this matter;

WHEREAS Plaintiffs and Defendant in this action intend to make application to this Court, pursuant to MCR 3.501(E), for a Final Order approving the settlement of this class action in accordance with the terms set forth in the Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”), executed by the City and Class Counsel on July ___, 2021, and attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and they seek preliminary approval of the Agreement for purposes of, among other things, notifying class members of the proposed settlement;

WHEREAS the Court has been made aware of the mediation and settlement process leading to the agreement reached, and counsel have demonstrated that the settlement is within a range of reasonableness and is the result of arm’s length bargaining of counsel well versed in the issues.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Unless defined otherwise herein, all capitalized terms shall have the definitions and meanings accorded to them in the Agreement.

2. The Court preliminarily approves the terms of the Agreement as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court finds that the Settlement was reached in the absence of collusion, and is the product of informed, good-faith, arm's length negotiations between the Parties and their counsel. Pursuant to MCR 3.501, the "Class," as defined in Paragraph 2 of the Agreement, is hereby certified for settlement purposes only.

3. A hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") will be held before this Court on _____ 2021, to determine whether the proposed settlement between Plaintiffs and Defendant, on the terms and conditions provided in the Agreement, is fair, reasonable and adequate and should be approved by the Court, to determine whether a final judgment should be entered dismissing this Lawsuit with prejudice, and without costs, and to determine whether to award attorneys' fees and expenses to Class Counsel and the amount of such fees and expenses.

4. The Court approves the notification to the members of the Class regarding the Settlement and right to hearing, as authorized in Paragraphs 5 and 7 of this Order, finding that such notification is the best notice practicable under the circumstances, is in compliance with MCR 3.501, and the requirements of due process of law, and will adequately inform Class Members of their rights.

5. Within 14 days after entry of this Order, but no earlier than July 30, 2021, the City shall provide the Claims-Escrow Administrator with billing and payment records in electronic form that, at a minimum, provide for the Class Period (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021) the service address, account number, and billing and payment history for each person or entity which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges

5. On or before thirty-five (35) days from the entry of this Order, Plaintiffs' Counsel shall cause a Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement ("Notice"), substantially in the form attached to the Agreement as Exhibit "C," to be mailed to members of the Class. Plaintiffs' Counsel shall also

cause a Notice, attached to the Agreement as Exhibit “A” to be published in local papers as described in the Agreement.

6. The law firm of Kickham Hanley PLLC (“KH”) is hereby appointed as Class Counsel in this Action. KH is further appointed as Claims-Escrow Administrator for this Action. KH is authorized to use the services of a third-party administrator (“TPA”), as provided in the Agreement, to administer a portion of the Settlement Fund to distribute Refunds as described in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 21 of the Agreement. Defendant will administer a portion of the Settlement Fund to apply Credits as described in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11, and 21 of the Agreement. KH (with the assistance of a TPA) is authorized to implement the notice requirements set forth in and approved by this Order.

7. The Court directs anyone within the Class definition who wishes to be excluded from the Class and to exercise their right to opt-out of the Class to follow the opt-out procedures and deadlines set forth in the Notice. Any Class Member who does not opt-out may appear personally, or by counsel of his or her own choice and at his or her own expense at the Settlement Hearing to show cause why: (a) the proposed settlement of the claims asserted should or should not be approved as fair, just, reasonable, adequate and in good faith; or (b) judgment should or should not be entered thereon; provided, however, that no Class member will be heard at the Hearing or be entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed settlement, the judgment to be entered thereon approving the same, or the attorneys’ fees and expenses to be paid, or other matter(s) that may be considered by the Court at or in connection with said settlement hearings unless the Class member files with the Court and serves upon counsel listed below at least sixty (60) days prior to the hearing written objections that set forth the name of this matter as defined in the Notice, the objector’s full name, address and telephone number, an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Class Member, all grounds for the objection including any known legal support for the objection, the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement in the

past five years and a caption of each case in which an objection was filed, the identity of all counsel representing the objector at the hearing, a statement confirming whether the objector intends to appear and/or testify at the hearing (along with a disclosure of all testifying witnesses) and the signature of the objector (not just the objector's attorney):

Gregory D. Hanley
Kickham Hanley PLLC
300 Balmoral Centre
32121 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Sonal Hope Mithani
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC
101 N. Main Street, 7th Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 668-7786
Attorneys for Defendant

8. Any Class member who does not opt out and who does not object in the manner provided above shall be deemed to have waived any and all objections to the fairness, adequacy or reasonableness of the proposed settlements or the award of attorney's fees and expenses, and shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the Lawsuit concerning the Settlement, including, but not limited to the Release and Covenant set forth in Paragraph 26 of the Agreement.

9. As stated in Paragraph 6, KH is authorized to serve as the Claims-Escrow Administrator. The Claims-Escrow Administrator, with the assistance of a TPA, shall be responsible for holding the Settlement Fund in escrow, determining the eligibility of Class Members to receive payments, determining the size of each Allowed Claim, distributing the payments to Class Members with Allowed Claims, preparing a distribution report along with the monetary amount of each Class Member's share of the settlement in accordance with Paragraph 10 of the Agreement, and transferring to Defendant the unclaimed portion of the Net Settlement Fund as required by Paragraph 10 of the Agreement. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall also be responsible for: (a) recording receipt of all responses to the Notice; (b) preserving until further Order of this Court any and all written communications from Class members or any other person in response to the Notice; and (c) making any necessary filings with the Internal Revenue Service. The Claims-Escrow Administrator may

respond to inquiries, but copies of all written answers to such inquiries will be maintained and made available for inspection by all counsel in this action.

10. All papers in support of the settlement shall be filed with the Court and served on the other parties no later than seven (7) days prior to the Settlement Hearing.

11. The Court expressly reserves its right to adjourn the Settlement Hearing without any further notice to members of the Class. The Court retains jurisdiction of this action to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed settlement herein.

12. All pretrial and trial proceedings in the Lawsuit are stayed and suspended until further order of the Court. Pending the final determination of the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the settlements, no Plaintiff or member of the class may institute or commence any action or proceeding against Defendant asserting any of the claims asserted in this action.

13. Subject to the terms of Paragraphs 14-15 of this Order, if the Agreement and Settlement is disapproved, in part or in whole, by the Court, or any appellate court; if dismissal of the Lawsuit with prejudice against Defendant cannot be accomplished; if a final judgment on the terms set forth in Paragraph 25 of the Agreement is not entered within one hundred eighty (180) days after the entry of this Order; if the Settlement Date defined in Paragraph 5 of the Agreement does not occur prior to February 1, 2022; or if the Agreement and Settlement otherwise is not fully consummated and effected:

a. The Agreement shall have no further force and effect, and it and all negotiations and proceedings connected therewith shall be without prejudice to the rights of Defendant, the Named Plaintiff and the Class;

b. Any discussions, offers, negotiations, or information exchanged in association with the Settlement shall not be discoverable or offered into evidence or used in the Lawsuit or any other action or proceeding for any purpose. No publicly disseminated information regarding the Settlement,

including, without limitation, the Notice, court filings, orders and public statements may be used as evidence, or construed as admissions or concessions of fact by or against either Party on any point of fact or law. In addition, neither the fact of, nor any documents relating to, either Party's withdrawal from the Settlement, any failure of the Court to approve the Settlement, and/or any objections or interventions may be used as evidence or construed as an admission or concession by the City or by Plaintiff on any point of fact or law. All Parties to the Lawsuit shall stand in the same position as if the Agreement had not been negotiated, made or filed with the Court; and

c. The Claims-Escrow Administrator shall immediately return to Defendant any and all monies provided by Defendant for settlement purposes.

14. Defendant and Class Counsel may, in their sole and exclusive discretion, elect to waive any or all of the terms, conditions or requirements stated in Paragraph 13 of this Order. Such waiver must be memorialized in a writing signed by Defendant and/or its counsel and/or Class Counsel and delivered via certified mail to all counsel of record, or it will have no force or effect.

15. Defendant and Class Counsel may, in their sole and exclusive discretion, elect to extend any or all of the deadlines stated in Paragraph 13 of this Order. Such extension must be memorialized in a writing signed by Defendant and/or its counsel and/or Class Counsel and delivered via certified mail to all counsel of record, or it will have no force or effect.

Circuit Court Judge

STIPULATED TO AND AGREED:

KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC

By: /s/ Gregory D. Hanley
Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)
32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
(248) 544-1500
Attorneys for Plaintiff

**MILLER CANFIELD PADDOCK & STONE
PLC**

By: /s/ Sonal Hope Mithani
Sonal Hope Mithani (P51984)
101 N. Main Street, 7th Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 668-7786
Attorneys for Defendant

KH1689006

EXHIBIT C

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION**

IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021, AND ARE A CURRENT WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE CREDITED YOUR PRO RATA SHARE FROM THE SETTLEMENT FUND.

IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021, ARE NO LONGER A WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY AND WISH TO RECEIVE A CASH REFUND, IF YOU QUALIFY FOR SUCH REFUND, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ATTACHED CLAIM FORM ON OR BEFORE _____, 2021 AND MAIL IT TO _____, OR EMAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO _____, OR SUMBIT AN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLINE AT _____.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CASH REFUND AS PART OF THIS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A WATER AND SEWER BILLING ACCOUNT WITH THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE YOUR PRO RATA SHARE IN THE FORM OF A CREDIT. YOU MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ANY PORTION OF THE SETTLEMENT FUND.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

JOSEPH G. GRIFFIN, and
CHRISTINA GRIFFIN, individually and
as representatives of a class of similarly-
situated persons and entities,

Case No. 2020-181196-CZ
Hon. Yasmine I. Poles

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS,
a Michigan municipal corporation,

Defendant.

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)
Edward F. Kickham Jr. (P70332)
KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC
32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300
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(248) 544-1500
Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class

Larry H. Sherman (P27805)
Sherman & Sherman PC
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Attorney for Defendant

Christopher Olson (P58780)
Olson PLLC
32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300

Sonal Hope Mithani (P51984)
Lara L. Kapalla-Bondi (P67667)
Emily G. Ladd (P83876)

Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 672-7368
Attorney for Plaintiff and the Class

Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC
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Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 668-7786
Attorneys for Defendant

TO: All persons and entities who/which have paid the City of Madison Heights (the “City”) or incurred the Stormwater Charge at any time during the class period, which is from July 1, 2016 through the present.

You are hereby notified that a proposed settlement in the amount of \$ 2,600,000 has been reached with the City in a class action lawsuit pending in Oakland County Circuit Court titled *Griffin. v. City of Madison Heights*, Case No. 2020-181196-CZ, presiding Judge Yasmine I. Poles (the “Lawsuit”), challenging the mandatory stormwater service charge the City imposes upon owners of real property to recover certain costs assessed upon the City by Oakland County. The amounts Plaintiffs and the Class paid or incurred for stormwater disposal between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2021 shall be referred to herein as the “Stormwater Charges.”

Plaintiffs contend that: (a) the Stormwater Charge is not a proper user fee but a tax wrongfully imposed by the City to raise revenue in violation of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan constitution of 1963; (b) the Stormwater Charge violates the Prohibited Taxes By Cities And Villages Act, MCL 141.91 because the Stormwater Charge is not an ad valorem tax, but is a tax imposed, levied, or collected after January 1, 1964; (c) the City has been unjustly enriched by the collection and retention of the Stormwater Charges and/or is required to refund the Stormwater Charges under a theory of assumpsit; and (d) that Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have been harmed by the City’s collection and retention of Stormwater Charges.

The Plaintiffs sought a judgment from the Court against the City that would order and direct the City to refund all Stormwater Charges to which Plaintiffs and the class are entitled and any other appropriate relief. The City maintains that the City’s imposition of the Stormwater Charge is proper and lawful. Thus, the City denies Plaintiffs’ claims in their entirety. The City specifically denies that the Stormwater Charge is a tax, denies that it has been unjustly enriched by collecting the Stormwater Charge, and further denies that it retains the Stormwater Charge. The City denies that the Plaintiffs or any other property owners that are similarly situated have been harmed by the City’s collection of the Stormwater Charges. The City contends that it should prevail in the lawsuit and denies that the Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to a refund of the City’s lawfully-assessed Stormwater Charges. **The Court has made no rulings concerning the merits of the lawsuit at this time.**

On February 25, 2021, Judge Poles entered an Opinion and Order certifying the lawsuit as a class action. You are receiving this notice because the City’s records indicate that an individual or entity owning or residing at this property address paid or incurred the City’s Stormwater Charge at some time after July 1, 2016 and are, therefore, a member of the class.

For settlement purposes, the parties have agreed that the Class will consist of all persons or entities who/which paid or incurred the Stormwater Charges between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2021 (the “Class”). The Settlement Agreement is intended to settle all of the claims of the Class.

The principal terms of the Settlement Agreement are as follows:

For the purposes of the proposed Settlement, the City expressly denies any and all allegations that it acted improperly, but, to avoid litigation costs, the City has agreed to create a settlement fund in the aggregate amount of Two Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,600,000) for the benefit of the Class (the “Settlement Amount”). The Settlement Amount will be utilized, with Court approval, to provide credits and refunds to the Class, and to pay Class Counsel an award of attorneys’ fees, the total amount of which shall not exceed 33% of the Settlement Amount, and expenses for the conduct of the litigation.

The “Net Settlement Fund” is the Settlement Fund less the combined total of: (a) attorneys’ fees and any incentive award to the Class representative awarded by the Court; and (b) Class Counsel and Claims-Escrow Administrator expenses reimbursed pursuant to the Settlement Agreement. The Net Settlement Fund shall be used to compensate Class Members as described below.

Each Class Member’s share in the Net Settlement Fund shall be referred to herein as his, her or its “Pro Rata Share,” and each Class Member’s Pro Rata Share of the Net Settlement Fund will be distributed via a refund payment or credit.

All Class Members may participate in the Settlement by receiving from the Net Settlement Fund a Credit or a cash distribution Refund (as defined in Paragraph 10 of the Settlement Agreement) that reflects the Class Member’s pro rata share of the Net Settlement Fund (“Pro Rata Share”). The size of each Class Member’s Pro Rata Share shall be determined by (1) calculating the total amount of Charges the Class Member paid during the Class Period and then (2) dividing that number by the total amount of Charges the City collected from Class Members during the Class Period and then (3) multiplying that fraction by the amount of the Net Settlement Fund.

Class Members who are Class Members as of June 30, 2021 and remain current water and sewer customers of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement (as described in Paragraph 25 of the Settlement Agreement) are eligible to receive a Credit to their water, sewer and stormwater utility accounts. To qualify to receive a Refund from the Net Settlement Fund, Class Members must no longer be water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City and must submit sworn claims (the “Claims”) which identify their names, addresses, and the periods of time in which they paid the Stormwater Charges in order to participate in the Settlement. Class Members who submit Claims will hereafter be referred to as the “Claiming Class Members.” The Claiming Class Members are required to submit those claims no later than 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of this settlement, as described in Paragraph 25 of the Settlement Agreement (the “Claims Period”). Only those Claiming Class Members who submit timely and completed Claims are eligible to receive a Refund. Any Class Members

who have unpaid balances for water, sewer or stormwater charges that are more than 30 days past due as of June 30, 2021 will have their Credits reduced by the amount of the past due balance. No later than 30 days after the Settlement Date, the Claims-Escrow Administrator will distribute the amount of a Refund, if any, to the Claiming Class Member. Also, no later than 30 days after the Settlement Date, the City will distribute and apply the Credits owed to Class Members under the Settlement Agreement. The Credit will reflect the amount of the Class Member's Pro Rata Share, which will be applied first to any unpaid charges in the Class Member's water, sewer and stormwater utility account and then against any future charges that accrue in the Class Member's water, sewer and stormwater utility account until the Credit is exhausted.

It is very important for any Class Member who paid Stormwater Charges but who is no longer a water, sewer or stormwater customer of the City as of 60 days prior to the hearing on the final approval of the settlement as described in Paragraph 25 of the Settlement Agreement to submit a Claim. The only way for Class Members who are no longer water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City to receive a portion of the Net Settlement Fund is for them to file Claims.

The City may not include any discrete component of cost in its water and sewer rates or its stormwater rates to reimburse itself for the amounts used to finance the Settlement Fund.

The Class Members shall release the City as provided below.

Class Members who wish to exclude themselves from the Settlement may write to the Administrator, stating that they do not wish to participate in the Settlement and that they wish to retain their right to file an action against the City. This proposed settlement should not be interpreted, in any way, as suggesting that the claims alleged against the City have legal or factual merit. The City has challenged the validity of Plaintiffs' claims. **This request for exclusion must be postmarked no later than _____, 2021 and mailed to: Kickham Hanley PLLC, 32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073 or emailed to khtemp@kickhamhanley.com.**

By remaining a Class Member, you will be bound by the terms of the proposed settlement and will be barred from bringing a separate action against the City for the claims asserted in the Lawsuit at your own expense through your own attorney. You will, however, receive your pro rata share of the Net Settlement Fund via a Refund or Credit. **Again, however, the only way for Class Members who are no longer water, sewer or stormwater customers of the City to receive a portion of the Net Settlement Fund is for them to file Claims.**

If you were to successfully pursue such a separate action to conclusion, recovery might be available to you which is not available in this class action settlement. Whether to remain a member of this class or to request exclusion from this class action to attempt to pursue a separate action at your own expense without the assistance of the City in this Action is a question you should ask your own attorney. Class Counsel cannot and will not advise you on this issue.

Pursuant to the Order of the Court dated _____, 2021, a Settlement Hearing will be held in the Oakland County Circuit Court, 1200 N. Telegraph Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48340 at ____ a.m. on _____, 2021, to determine whether the proposed Settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement dated _____, 2021, is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved by the Court, whether the Lawsuit should be dismissed pursuant to the Settlement, whether counsel for Plaintiffs and the Class should be awarded fees and expenses, and whether the Class Representatives should receive an incentive award. At the Settlement Hearing, any member of the Class may appear in person or through counsel, either at a live hearing or an online hearing, and be heard to the extent allowed by the Court in support of, or in opposition to, the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the proposed Settlement. However, no Class member will be heard in opposition to the proposed Settlement and no papers or briefs submitted by any such Class member will be accepted or considered by the Court unless on or before _____, 2021, such Class member serves by first class mail written objections that set forth the name of this matter as defined in the Notice, the objector's full name, address and telephone number, an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Class Member, all grounds for the objection including any known legal support for the objection, the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement in the past five years and a caption of each case in which an objection was filed, the identity of all counsel representing the objector at the hearing, a statement confirming whether the objector intends to appear and/or testify at the hearing (along with a disclosure of all testifying witnesses) and the signature of the objector (not just the objector's attorney) upon each of the following attorneys:

Gregory D. Hanley
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300 Balmoral Centre
32121 Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073
(248) 544-1500
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

Sonal Hope Mithani
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone PLC
101 N. Main Street, 7th Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 668-7786
Attorneys for Defendant

and has filed said notice, objections, papers and briefs, as to the settlement with the Clerk of the Oakland County Circuit Court. Any Class member who does not make and serve written objections in the manner provided above shall be deemed to have waived such objections and shall be forever foreclosed from making any objections (by appeal or otherwise) to the proposed Settlement.

For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the Lawsuit, including the terms of the proposed Settlement, you are referred to papers on file in the Lawsuit, which may be inspected during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court for Oakland County, Michigan. You may also view the Settlement Agreement and other important court documents at www.kickhamhanley.com.

Should you have any questions with respect to this Notice of the proposed settlement of the Lawsuit generally, you should raise them with your own attorney or direct them to counsel for the Class, IN WRITING OR BY EMAIL TO KHTEMP@KICKHAMHANLEY.COM, NOT BY TELEPHONE, identified as Attorneys for Plaintiffs, above. **DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT, THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE DEFENDANT OR THE ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT.**

On the Settlement Date, each Class Member who has not timely requested exclusion therefrom shall be deemed to have individually executed, on behalf of the Class Member and his or her heirs, successors and assigns, if any, the following Release and Covenant Not To Sue, and the Final Order and Judgment to be entered by the Court in connection with the approval of this Settlement shall so provide:

In executing the Release and Covenant Not To Sue in the Agreement, each Class Member, on behalf of himself, herself or itself, and his, her or its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, members, shareholders, predecessors, heirs, administrators, officers, directors, successors, assigns, and any person the Class Member represents, intending to be legally bound hereby, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby absolutely, fully and forever releases, relieves, remises and discharges the City, and each of its successors and assigns, present and former agents, representatives, employees, insurers, affiliated entities, attorneys and administrators, of and from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, accounts, understandings, contracts, agreements, controversies, judgments, consequential damages, compensatory damages, punitive damages, claims, liabilities, and demands of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, which were or could have been brought in the Lawsuit and/or arise from the beginning of time through December 31, 2021 concerning (1) the City's calculation or assessment of the Stormwater Charges; (2) the components of costs included in the Stormwater Charges; (3) the City's efforts to charge and/or collect Stormwater Charges; and/or (4) the methodology or means employed by the City to fund payment of the stormwater charges that Oakland County assesses upon the City. In executing the Release and Covenant Not to Sue, each Class Member also covenants that: (a) except for actions or suits based upon breaches of the terms of this Agreement or to enforce rights provided for in this Agreement, he, she or it will refrain from commencing any action or suit, or prosecuting any pending action or suit, in law or in equity, against the City on account of any action or cause of action released hereby; (b) none of the claims released under the Release and Covenant Not To Sue has been assigned to any other party; and (c) the Class Member accepts and assumes the risk that if any fact or circumstance is found, suspected, or claimed hereinafter to be other than or different from the facts or circumstances now believed to be true, the Release and Covenant Not To Sue shall be and remain effective notwithstanding any such difference in any such facts or circumstances.

AGAIN, IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021 AND ARE NO LONGER A WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CASH REFUND AS PART OF THIS CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN CLAIM. IF YOU QUALIFY FOR SUCH REFUND, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ATTACHED CLAIM FORM ON OR BEFORE _____, 2021 AND MAIL IT TO _____, OR EMAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO _____, OR SUMBIT AN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLINE AT _____.

IF YOU PAID STORMWATER CHARGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS AT ANY TIME BETWEEN JULY 1, 2016 AND JUNE 30, 2021, AND ARE A CURRENT WATER, SEWER, OR STORMWATER CUSTOMER OF THE CITY YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE CREDITED YOUR PRO RATA SHARE FROM THE SETTLEMENT FUND.

EXHIBIT D

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

JOSEPH G. GRIFFIN, and
CHRISTINA GRIFFIN, individually and
as representatives of a class of similarly-
situated persons and entities,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS,
a Michigan municipal corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 2020-181196-CZ
Hon. Yasmine I. Poles

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FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER APPROVING CLASS SETTLEMENT

At a session of said Court held in the
City of Mt. Clemens, County of Oakland,
State of Michigan on _____

PRESENT: HON. _____
Circuit Court Judge

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs and Defendant in this action have moved this Court, pursuant to MCR 3.501(E), for an order approving the settlement of this class action in accordance with the terms set forth in the Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) executed by counsel for the parties.

WHEREAS, this Court having held a hearing, as noticed, on _____, pursuant to the Order Regarding Preliminary Approval of Settlement, Notice and Scheduling, dated _____ (the “Order”), to determine the fairness, adequacy and reasonableness of a proposed settlement of the Class Action; and due and adequate notice (the “Notice”) having been made by mailing in a manner consistent with Paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Order; and all such persons (excluding those who previously requested exclusion from the applicable Class) having been given an opportunity to object to or participate in the settlement; and the Court having heard and considered the matter, including all papers filed in connection therewith and the oral presentations of counsel at said hearing; and good cause appearing therefor.

For the reasons stated on the record, IT IS HEREBY FOUND, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The terms of the Agreement are fair, reasonable and adequate and in the best interests of the members of the Class and are hereby approved.
2. Plaintiffs and Defendant are hereby ordered and directed to perform and consummate the settlement set forth in the Agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement.
3. The notification to the Class members regarding the Settlement is the best notice practicable under the circumstances and is in compliance with MCR 3.501(E) and the requirements of due process of law.

4. This Lawsuit is hereby dismissed with prejudice, and without costs to any party except as provided for in the Agreement.

5. Kickham Hanley PLLC, counsel for the Class, is hereby awarded attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$_____, to be paid as set forth in the Agreement. Plaintiff Joseph Griffin is granted an incentive award of \$_____, to be paid as set forth in the Agreement. Plaintiff Christina Griffin is granted an incentive award of \$_____, to be paid as set forth in the Agreement.

6. Without any further action by anyone, Plaintiffs and all members of the Class as certified by the Order dated _____, who previously did not submit a timely and valid Request for Exclusion are deemed to have executed the following Release and Covenant not to Sue which is hereby approved by the Court:

In executing the Release and Covenant Not To Sue in the Agreement, each Class Member, on behalf of himself, herself or itself, and his, her or its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, members, shareholders, predecessors, heirs, administrators, officers, directors, successors, assigns, and any person the Class Member represents, intending to be legally bound hereby, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby absolutely, fully and forever releases, relieves, remises and discharges the City, and each of its successors and assigns, present and former agents, representatives, employees, insurers, affiliated entities, attorneys and administrators, of and from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, accounts, understandings, contracts, agreements, controversies, judgments, consequential damages, compensatory damages, punitive damages, claims, liabilities, and demands of any kind or nature whatsoever, known or unknown, which were or could have been brought in the Lawsuit and/or arise from the beginning of time through December 31, 2021 concerning (1) the City's calculation or assessment of the Stormwater Charges; (2) the components of costs included in the Stormwater Charges; (3) the City's efforts to charge and/or collect Stormwater Charges; and/or (4) the methodology or means employed by the City to fund payment of the stormwater charges that Oakland County assesses upon the City. In executing the Release and Covenant Not to Sue, each Class Member also covenants that: (a) except for actions or suits based upon breaches of the terms of this Agreement or to enforce rights provided for in this Agreement, he, she or it will refrain from commencing any action or suit, or prosecuting any pending action or suit, in law

or in equity, against the City on account of any action or cause of action released hereby; (b) none of the claims released under the Release and Covenant Not To Sue has been assigned to any other party; and (c) the Class Member accepts and assumes the risk that if any fact or circumstance is found, suspected, or claimed hereinafter to be other than or different from the facts or circumstances now believed to be true, the Release and Covenant Not To Sue shall be and remain effective notwithstanding any such difference in any such facts or circumstances.

6. This Court retains continuing jurisdiction to effectuate the provisions of the Agreement and the terms of this Order.

7. The provisions of Paragraph 6 hereof respecting the retention of jurisdiction shall not affect the finality of this judgment as to matters not reserved.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Circuit Court Judge

STIPULATED TO AND AGREED:

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