

**PROCLAMATION  
CELEBRATING 60 YEARS  
TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**WHEREAS**, Growing from five original members in 1959 to more than 660 in 2019, the **Troy Chamber** has worked diligently to strengthen the business community. The business market has shifted from one of agriculture to technology, trading cornfields for corporations. There were fewer than 100 Troy businesses when the **Troy Chamber** incorporated and the residential population was about 13,000 in 1959; and

**WHEREAS**, **Troy Chamber Founder Ed Rusin**, opened Troy National Bank (TNB) on the corner of Maple and Livernois in the early 1960s housed in a former gas station. He was largely responsible for the tremendous expansion of Troy. When he first came to Troy in 1963, the City didn't have sewers; it didn't have a good tax base and had no way of determining what possible success was here. Ed realized that industry had to be the first bank customers since they were the ones with the large deposits; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ed Rusin, Troy Chamber** Founder and President from 1964-1967 felt that the bank had to build its own customers as well as help to build a tax base for the city. An industrial and commercial development committee of the City of Troy was created, acting as a liaison between the Planning Commission and the City Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Troy Chamber** membership doubled during 1965, seeing a 100% increase in membership with the addition of 28 new businesses. **Eileen Turner** became the first Executive Director of the **Troy Chamber** in 1967 and served until 1986. During Eileen's service to the **Troy Chamber**, the first Troy Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing was held June 27, 1968 at Sylvan Glen Golf Course, and Kmart moved its headquarters to Troy in 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, **Gayla Houser** was the **Troy Chamber** President from 1987-2001. During her service, *The Wall Street Journal* featured Troy as the number 3 Boom Town of the 1990s. **Michele Hodges** was the **Troy Chamber** President from 2001-2013. During her tenure the **Chamber** developed the Non-Profit Network and key partnerships with diverse chambers in Oakland County; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ara Topouzian** was the Troy Chamber President/CEO from 2013-2019. During his service the Chamber rebranded and launched the current company brand; the first Inside Corporate Troy episode went live on CMN-TV and the Troy Chamber's own YouTube channel; restructured and developed the Business Development Groups; and implemented economic development themed events and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chamber Board hired and welcomed **Tara Tomcsik-Husak** in August 2019 as the newest Chamber President/CEO who will take the Troy Chamber into its next decade focusing on education and communication among the Troy business community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Troy City Council does hereby congratulate the **Troy Chamber of Commerce on its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** and recognizes its impact upon the entire community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council joins the citizens of this community in appreciation and celebration of the **Troy Chamber of Commerce's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** as they enter into the future with dedication to the business community.

**Presented this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.**