

**PROCLAMATION
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

WHEREAS, Growing from five original members in 1959 to more than 700 in 2009, 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. Michigan was selling land to real estate developers at a bargain rate (about \$1 per square foot); 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 annual 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; Robert F. Kennedy Jr. came to speak about environmental responsibility at the Troy Youth-Business Symposium; The FamilyWorks of Troy, a child/elder care referral program was developed and won the "Innovator" award in 1991; Jerry "The Beav" Mathers came to Troy in 1995 to celebrate the completion of the widening of Big Beaver Road; and The Somerset Collection created a 33-acre upscale shopping paradise with more than 200 stores in 1996; and

WHEREAS, **Michele Hodges** has been the **Troy Chamber** President since 2001. During her tenure the **Chamber** has partnered with Lawrence Tech University in the Maple Road revitalization efforts and the ALOeTERRA House; supported UM/ULI real estate forum; worked with key leaders from the cities of Troy and Birmingham to make the transit center a transportation hub for the region; sponsored the Helen eWards for web excellence for nine years; developed the Oakland County Wellness Coalition; developed the Non-Profit Network; developed key partnerships with diversity chambers in Oakland County (Michigan Hispanic Chamber, Chaldean American Chamber, Asian Pacific American Chamber); and created the Image and Arts Council of Troy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council does hereby congratulate the **Troy Chamber of Commerce on its 50th Anniversary** and recognizes its impact upon not only its membership, but on 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 50th anniversary** as they enter into their future with dedication to both the business community as well as the Troy residents.

Presented this 19th day of October 2009.