

## PROCLAMATION TO HONOR JUDGE MICHAEL A. MARTONE

**WHEREAS, Michael A. Martone** was first elected to Troy and Clawson's 52-4 District Court in 1992 and reelected without opposition in 1998 and again in 2004. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wayne State University and his Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University, Detroit College of Law; and

**WHEREAS,** The community has been in constant change over the years, but **Judge Martone** has maintained a distinguished record of accomplishment, judicial integrity, character, service and excellence to all he has served. **Judge Martone's** professional career and much of his personal time has been dedicated to helping America's youth avoid problems and deal successfully with the challenges that they face in today's society. His frequent use of 'creative sentences' and his establishment of the **Courageous Decisions Program**, a nationally acclaimed alcohol intervention program, has raised awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving and underage binge drinking all across America. Since its inception in 1993, more than 225,000 students in 30 states have participated in this highly successful, award-winning program; and

**WHEREAS,** On April 20, 1999, in a first of its kind broadcast, **Judge Martone** presented this program, via satellite to every school in North America. **Judge Martone** is a faculty member at the Michigan Judicial Institute and served as both lead faculty and as a special presenter at the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada where his program has been established as part of the college's curriculum. It is also part of SADD's national "2000 by 2000" initiative and both the 1997 and 2000 MADD National Youth Summits; and

**WHEREAS, Judge Martone** and the **Courageous Decisions Program** have been featured on NBC's Today Show, ABC's Good Morning America, CBS's Early Show, MSNBC's Today's People, CNN's Newsstand and on National Public Radio's the Todd Mundt Show. In 2008, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) SE Michigan created the annual Courage First Life Savers Award, named in honor of **Judge Martone's Courage First Foundation** and presented him with the inaugural award; and

**WHEREAS, Judge Martone** has been the recipient of the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government 100 Most Innovative Programs in All of Federal, State, Local and Tribal Government Award for his Courageous Decisions Program; and

**WHEREAS,** Over the years, **Judge Martone** has volunteered with Troy Families for Safe Homes, Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence. In 2006, **Judge Martone** was selected as the Distinguished Citizen of the Year and an Oakland County Q2 Award winner. He has also been a soccer and basketball coach, youth mentor at St. Thomas More, and active with the Boy Scouts of America; and

**WHEREAS,** The most important aspects in **Judge Martone's** life is his family, wife of 32 years **Martha Rose**, & sons **Jonathan and James**; and

**WHEREAS, Judge Michael A. Martone** is respected nation-wide, not merely for the justice that characterizes his courtroom, but for the ways in which he works to keep our community safe and our kids on the right path. **Judge Martone's** innovative crime and substance abuse prevention programs have attracted national media attention and have been adopted by courts and schools all over the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN,** That the City Council of the City of Troy takes this opportunity to express its appreciation and sincere gratitude to **Judge Michael A. Martone** for his many contributions to the betterment of the City during his tenure as 52-4 District Court Judge; and

**BE IT FURTHER KNOWN** That the City Council of the City of Troy, on behalf of themselves, City management and the citizens of the City of Troy, extends wishes of prosperity, good health and happiness to **Michael** during his retirement years. His influence and contributions will remain alive in our hearts and will impact each of us as we journey into the future.

Presented the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2010.