

Introduced by County Services and Finance Committees of the:

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN TO TAKE CLIENT REFERRALS FROM INGHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS AND INGHAM COUNTY TREASURER

RESOLUTION #11-178

WHEREAS, Ingham County and its residents have been hit especially hard by the foreclosure crisis; and

WHEREAS, Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel Jr. has uncovered potential fraudulent documents in his office that call into question over 100 foreclosures in his office; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Court of Appeals has declared that MERS (Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems) has been wrongfully foreclosing by advertisement in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, these illegal foreclosure by MERS have resulted in over 400 people wrongfully losing their home in Ingham County over the Last 2 years; and

WHEREAS, MERS was specifically created to avoid Register of Deeds filing fees, and has cost the County hundreds of thousands of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the foreclosure crisis has directly impacted the county budget by lowering property values across the county and increased the counties tax foreclosure costs; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of South Central Michigan has the ability to help these citizens stay in their home longer and fight these illegal foreclosures.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Register of Deeds and the County Treasurer to contract with Legal Aid of South Central Michigan to refer clients who have been affected by this crisis in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the time period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Register of Deeds and the County Treasurer shall monitor the number of cases actually referred to Legal Aid of South Central Michigan and adjust the contract award accordingly, but in no case shall the contract award exceed \$60,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract award shall be charged against the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller/Administrator is authorized to make any necessary budget adjustments.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the County Clerk are authorized to sign any contract documents consistent with this resolution and approved as to form by the County Attorney.

COUNTY SERVICES: Yeas: De Leon, Copedge, Celentino, Schor, Vickers, Dragonetti

Nays: None **Absent:** None **Approved 6/7/11**

FINANCE: Yeas: Schor, Tsernoglou, Nolan, Bahar-Cook, McGrain, Dougan

Nays: None **Absent:** None **Approved 6/8/11**