

**CITY OF MANTON
WEXFORD COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-12

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MANTON CITY COMMISSION
CONDEMNING TARGETED HARASSMENT, CYBERBULLYING, AND
INTIMIDATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS PERSONALLY;
AFFIRMING THE RIGHT
OF COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE FREE FROM INTIMIDATION;
AND DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO PURSUE ALL
AVAILABLE LEGAL REMEDIES**

WHEREAS, the City of Manton is a home rule city organized under the laws of the State of Michigan, governed by an elected City Commission whose members are entrusted with representing the public interest and conducting the official business of the City; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Manton City Commission are duly elected public servants who voluntarily offer themselves to serve their community, and who are entitled to perform their official duties in an environment free from targeted personal harassment, intimidation, and abuse; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the City Commission that one or more individuals have engaged in a deliberate, ongoing, and escalating campaign of cyberbullying, online harassment, and personal attacks directed at City Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, such conduct includes the repeated posting of false, misleading, threatening, and inflammatory statements through social media and electronic communications, specifically targeting Commissioners in an offensive personal manner; and

WHEREAS, this conduct has caused significant emotional distress and psychological harm to the targeted Commissioners, has interfered with their personal lives in an unreasonable and unjustified manner as well as their ability to perform their official duties; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has enacted statutes specifically prohibiting the threatening of persons and/or intimidation through cyberstalking and otherwise through electronic communications (MCL 750.411s), which may apply to the conduct described herein; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission unequivocally affirms and respects the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 5 of the Michigan Constitution, which guarantee every citizen the right to free speech, including the right to criticize, question, challenge, and disagree with their elected officials and government; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes that robust public debate — including sharp, pointed, and even uncomfortable criticism of those in power — is the cornerstone of American

democracy, and that elected officials who enter public life accept a degree of scrutiny that private citizens do not; and

WHEREAS, however, the constitutional protections afforded by free speech do not extend to conduct that crosses the line from protected opinion and criticism into deliberate falsehood, targeted personal harassment, and intimidation — specifically: the knowingly false statement of facts presented as true (which may constitute defamation), conduct intended to terrorize, harass, or cause emotional distress (which may constitute cyberstalking under MCL 750.411s); and

WHEREAS, the distinction the Commission draws is clear: citizens have every right to say 'I disagree with how my Commissioner voted' or 'I believe my Commissioner is wrong on this issue' — that is protected speech this Commission will always defend; however, what no citizen has the right to do is to wage a sustained campaign of personal attacks using false and misleading information designed to harm, intimidate, or silence an elected official rather than to inform or persuade; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has a duty and an obligation to protect the ability of its members to govern effectively and to deter conduct that undermines democratic participation and the willingness of qualified citizens to seek and hold public office; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission is prepared to exercise all available legal remedies to address and halt this conduct;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manton City Commission hereby formally and unequivocally condemns the targeted harassment, cyberbullying, and intimidation of its members, and declares such conduct to be antithetical to the values of civic discourse, democratic governance, and community respect upon which this City was founded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission affirms, in the strongest possible terms, the right of every Commissioner to serve the citizens of Manton free from personal harassment, online intimidation, threats, and campaigns designed to cause emotional harm or coerce official action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission hereby may direct the City Attorney to review specific conduct at issue and to advise the Commission on all available legal remedies, including but not limited to: (a) the issuance of formal cease and desist correspondence; (b) referral to the Wexford County Prosecutor's Office for investigation under MCL 750.411s (intimidation of a public official) through (cyberstalking); (c) pursuit of civil remedies including defamation claims where false statements of fact are involved; and (d) application to the Wexford County Circuit Court for a Personal Protection Order on behalf of any affected Commissioner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission hereby places the individual or individuals responsible for this conduct on formal public notice that their behavior has been observed, documented, and reviewed and the City of Manton reserves the right to pursue each and every legal remedy available under Michigan law and federal law to bring this conduct to an immediate end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission calls upon all citizens of Manton to reject harassment and intimidation as tools of civic engagement, and to reaffirm a community standard of respectful, factual, and constructive dialogue with their elected officials.

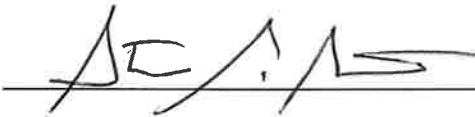
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be entered into the official minutes of the City of Manton, transmitted to the City Attorney, and made available to the public as a record of the Commission's formal position.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Manton, Wexford County, Michigan, at a duly noticed regular meeting thereof, on the 20 day of MAY, 2026.

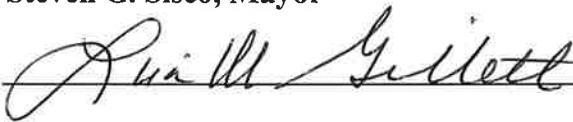
AYES: FULLERTON, GILLETT, JOHNSON, RAYMENT, WILKINS

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: SIDDAIL



Steven G. Sisco, Mayor



Lisa Gillett, Acting City Clerk

(City Seal)