RESOLUTION

No. 2020-370

By Commissioner Baker McCormick and Co-sponsored by Commissioners Anderson, Baydoun, Bell, Clark-Coleman, Daub, Haidous, Killeen, Knezek, Jr., Marecki, Palamara, Scott, Varga, and Ware

WHEREAS, municipal clerk’s office drop boxes provide 24-hour access for voters to drop off absentee ballots, saving time and money, and drop boxes provide a safe, contact-free voting option during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Election Reform Alliance Drop Box Project is advocating for increased placement of drop boxes and has, to date, compiled survey information from 17 counties, representing 5.7 million Michigan voters; and

WHEREAS, that survey indicates that communities with large African American populations are generally underserved by drop boxes and that Detroit, in particular, has no drop boxes for its estimated 500,000 voting age residents, half of whom or more are expected to vote by absentee ballot this year; and

WHEREAS, the lack of drop boxes could unfairly disenfranchise African American and other voters by discouraging them from casting their absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, numerous communities are adding drop boxes for this year’s elections, including such Wayne County communities as Gibraltar, Hamtramck, Woodhaven and Wyandotte; and

WHEREAS, drop boxes can be placed at secure, municipally owned properties, including city halls, fire stations, libraries and community centers, and drop boxes can also accommodate tax and utility payments, increasing their usefulness for residents; and

WHEREAS, drop boxes can provide a savings on return postage and other election-related costs, and the use of federal CARES Act money will help support communities to purchase drop boxes and avoid any disenfranchisement in the voting process; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of an election would be better served as only sworn officials representing the clerk’s office would have access to the drop box.

Now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, on this 2nd day of July, 2020 that the Wayne County Commission calls on all Wayne County communities lacking drop boxes to investigate the possibility of adding a sufficient number of drop boxes, especially in time for the November 3, 2020, general election; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Commission urges communities to seek and apply for grants to cover the cost of adding drop boxes; and be it further

RESOLVED, and that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and municipal clerks in all Wayne County communities.

(2020-66-030)