

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:

Public Relations Director
LaKisha Brown
313-495-6825
lbrown@highlandparkmi.gov



RELEASE DATE:

04/11/2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Highland Park Notification to Michigan Department of Treasury of Probable Financial Distress

Highland Park, MI – On April 4, 2023, the Michigan Supreme Court denied the City of Highland Park’s application to appeal the Court of Appeals’ August 18, 2022 remand to the trial court for reinstatement of the April 30, 2015 judgment that had been previously vacated by the trial court on February 26, 2021 for water and sewer charges assessed by the Great Lakes Water Authority.

The April 30, 2015, judgment was for \$19,839,658.32. The taxable property owners of Highland Park for fiscal year 2022 pay about \$9.6 million in property taxes. If spread on the tax rolls, the \$19,839,658.32 judgment would increase the property taxes of the taxpayers by a factor of three times.

The Michigan Supreme Court Order automatically initiates the policy of Public Act 436 of 2012, The Local Financial Stability & Choice Act, which is an act to safeguard and insure the financial accountability of local units of government and school districts.

This Act requires the City of Highland Park notify the state financial authority which may conduct a preliminary review to determine the existence of probable financial stress within a local government due to a court ordering an additional tax levy without the prior approval of its governing body.

That official notification was resolved unanimously on April 10, 2023 by the Highland Park City Council. This Council Resolution is the first step necessary to gain assistance from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury in resolving this problem and avoiding a threat to the public health, wealth, and safety of the City of Highland Park and the rest of the citizens of Michigan.

###