

City of Monroe Communications,
Culture and Community Promotion

120 East First St. Monroe MI 48161 734-384-9134 monroemi.gov



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Contact:

Vince Pastue
City of Monroe
City Manager
vincent.pastue@monroemi.gov
734-384-9144

STATEMENT REGARDING TERMINATION OF ARTHUR LESOW COMMUNITY CENTER NONPROFIT AGREEMENT

Monroe, Michigan - The City of Monroe has issued the below statement in response to the recent termination of the agreement with the nonprofit currently managing the Arthur Lesow Community Center:

City Manager, Vince Pastue: "At their Monday, June 3, 2019 meeting, the Monroe City Council approved a motion to provide the Arthur Lesow Community Center (ALCC) non-profit organization 90-day notice that their lease to operate the community center will be terminated. The ALCC non-profit Board has operated the community center, a recognized and extremely valued asset in the city, for decades. That being said, the City Council and I expressed frustration with the ALCC Board's ongoing dysfunction and inability to expand services and programs to more broadly serve the community, despite our ongoing efforts over the past several years that included facilitating a strategic plan, defined goals and objectives, board trainings, and additional funding support. Additionally, we have been made aware of recent cash flow challenges. In order to stave off any further financial issues, the difficult decision was made to terminate the arrangement with the non-profit managing the facility and seek alternate management arrangements."

The Monroe City Council indicated that the community center will remain open through the next 90 days without any disruption of services and programs, and well into the future. The Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget, recently adopted by the City Council, continues funding the community center through June 30, 2020 with an annual budget of \$156,000. Moving forward, City Manager Pastue will provide Council with transition alternatives to maintain programs and services with local funding agencies, as well as to expand public program offerings.

City Manager Pastue also clarified a misconception from Monday evening's discussion regarding the ALCC Board's first quarter loss of \$26,000: "The dollar amount referenced is operating expenses greater than revenues, not that the money is missing or unaccounted for."

About the City of Monroe

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County. Continually moving forward with innovative vision, the City of Monroe is Raisin' Expectations.

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