

For Immediate Release—Official Press Release

Press Release

Office of

Mayor William R. Wild

36300 Warren Road Westland, Michigan 48185
Office 734.467.3200 / Fax 734.422.1230



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Westland Holds Inaugural Ceremony as Mayor and Four Council Members Take Oath of Office



Council President James Hart, Councilman James Godbout, Councilman Peter Herzberg, Councilwoman Melissa Sampey, Mayor William R. Wild

Westland, MI (January 4, 2022) On Monday, January 3, 2022, the City of Westland formally inaugurated Mayor William R. Wild along with four members of city council.

The ceremony took place in the Gene McKinney Ballroom located inside Westland City Hall. Sworn in by 18th District Court Chief Judge Mark McConnell, Mayor William R. Wild will continue to serve as the city's Mayor. He has been serving our community as Mayor since 2007.

"It is an honor to continue to serve as Mayor of the All American city of Westland. I look forward to the next four years working closely with the City Council to improve the lives of Westland residents," says Mayor Wild.

The inaugural celebration also included swearing in for three current member of city council and one newcomer. James R. Godbout, first taking office in 2000; James Hart who first assumed office in 2018; Peter Herzberg in 2016 and the newly elected councilwoman Melissa Sampey, who officially took office January 1, 2022.

City Clerk Richard LeBlanc acted as the Masters of Ceremony with saxophonist Steven Thomas playing America the Beautiful. Reverend Dr. John E. Duckworth of Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church kicked off the ceremony with an invocation. Mayor William R. Wild provided closing statements for the inaugural celebration.

Mayor Wild will serve a four year term along with Councilmen James Hart, James Godbout and Peter Herzberg. First-time elect Councilwoman Melissa Sampey will serve a two-year term.

“To the residents of the City of Westland, thank you for your continued support. Twenty-one years so far has been a pretty good run and I will continue to serve you and serve the best interest of all residents of the City of Westland,” says Councilman James Godbout.

“We should all be active in the community some way or another. Sometimes that’s on City Council; sometimes it’s on boards and commission; sometimes it’s your local civic groups. But I’ve always encouraged everybody to be active in any way they can and I’ve always encouraged my children to be active. If you guys hang around any city events, you’ll always see some of my kids running around because they are just as bought into this and just as dedicated as I am,” says Councilman James Hart.

“Over the last six years since being on Council, I’ve been able to learn so many things and really being in public service has been the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done and I enjoy it. I’m honored to do it and I’m looking forward to the next four years,” says Councilman Peter Herzberg.

“I’m standing here as a brand new Councilwoman and many people said she can’t and she won’t do it. But it only takes one person to believe in you and I was very lucky I had so many people in my corner who believed in me and supported me,” says Councilwoman Melissa Sampey.

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at (734) 467-3200.

Westland, Michigan is the state's 10th largest municipality, with a population of over 84,000.

Westland has been recognized as one of 24/7 Wall Street's America's Best 50 Cities to Live, offering residents and visitors an ideal blend of single – family affordable homes, apartments and condominiums, great schools, and access to numerous outdoor activities. Public safety is delivered by full-service, professional law enforcement and firefighting personnel.

Westland is well known as a premier destination for shopping and dining in Wayne County with hundreds of shops and restaurants anchored by the Westland shopping Center, one of the country's original four regional malls.

The City is served by two public school districts; Wayne-Westland Community Schools serving 12,000 youth was recently named one of the best schools in Michigan by WXYZ-TV and is the proud recipient of 14 Golden Apple and two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards. Livonia Public Schools, educating nearly 15,000 students, is proud of their MEAP/MME scores that exceed State averages and the district has also earned Golden Apple and Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School awards.

The City provides competitive incentives for those who are interested in investing in Westland, making it one of the hottest investment markets in the region. Westland's Fast-Track to Business Team, which consists of key decision makers who work diligently to “cut the red tape” and expedite the approval

process for new business development.