

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL

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BRANDON McCULLOUGH, President
MARTHA PTASHNIK, Vice President
CARRIE BUDZINSKI
ROB GJONAJ DONOVIC
SCOTT MORGAN
LYNDA L. SCHEEL
LAURA M. TOY



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LYNDA L. SCHEEL, CHAIR
LAURA M. TOY, VICE CHAIR
MARTHA PTASHNIK, MEMBER

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL

**MEETING PACKET FOR THE
LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
AUGUST 18, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

**The electronic agenda is compiled, produced and distributed
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The official documents are on file in the City Clerk's office.

LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
August 18, 2025
Livonia City Hall, Council Chambers
33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154
6:00 PM

Members:

Lynda L. Scheel, Chair
Laura M. Toy, Vice Chair
Martha Ptashnik, Member

AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. [The subject matter of a proposed amendment to the noise ordinance. \(CR 253-24\)](#)
2. [The subject matter of potential ordinance amendment\(s\) related to cloth coverings on fences \(CR 157-25\).](#)

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

**THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING AND ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

THIS MEETING WILL BE REPORTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2025

Minutes of this meeting will be available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office not more than eight business days following the date of the meeting.

In accordance with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act as it pertains to access to Public Meetings, the City Clerk's Office of the City of Livonia, upon adequate notice, will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please call (734) 466-2236 or email clerk@livonia.gov if you need assistance. **Council agendas are available on the City's website – www.livonia.gov - under Government, City Council, Agendas.**

LORI L. MILLER, CITY CLERK



LETTER TO THE LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL

1.

Council Office
July 1, 2025

MEETING DATE

LE081825

PRESENTED BY

AGENDA ITEM

The subject matter of a proposed amendment to the noise ordinance. (CR 253-24)

BACKGROUND DETAILS

At the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2024:

Vice President Ptashnik reported on the subject matter of proposed amendments to the Noise Ordinance as discussed at the Law & Education Committee meeting of December 4, 2024, and indicated the matter will remain in committee. (CR 253-24)

At the Regular Meeting of August 7, 2024:

On a motion by Councilmember Toy, supported by Councilmember Jolly and unanimously adopted, it was:

#253-24 RESOLVED, that having considered a communication from Steven Johnson, 18240 Sunset St., Livonia, MI 48152, dated June 24, 2024, wherein he requests a proposed Ordinance amendment to allow noise ordinance enforcement to begin at 10:00 p.m., the Council does hereby refer this item to the Law and Education Committee for its report and recommendation.

PREFERRED COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION (Please complete this field. Attachments are not to be used in lieu of the recommendation)

To discuss the subject matter as presented.

ATTACHMENTS

1. LE120424 Min
2. LE101424 LTC Prop amend to noise ord
3. R080724 Noise ord amend Steven Johnson Refer to LE CR 253-24

APPROVED BY

LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

A Law and Education Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Committee Members Present: Martha Ptashnik, Chair
Laura Toy, Vice Chair

Committee Members Absent: None

**City Officials and
Others Present:** Carrie Budzinski, Councilmember
Carter Fisher, City Attorney
Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Public Works
Jerome Hanna, Inspection Director

Additional Attendees: See attached.

1. The subject matter of a proposed amendment to the noise ordinance. (CR 253-24)

The meeting convened at 7:00PM and was led by Committee Chair, Martha Ptashnik.

There were no residents in attendance to speak on this item and will remain in committee for further discussion.

The Committee recommends:

For this item to remain in committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of December 18, 2024**

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|---|
| 2. The subject matter of proposed ordinance amendment(s) to the City's Noxious Weed Ordinances to include non-enforcement language for residents who maintain native plant-based gardens and meadows in lieu of conventional lawns. (CR 307-24) |
|---|

Committee Chair, Martha Ptashnik opened discussion by asking for suggestions relating to native plants and how the city can encourage green thinking while balancing the community look.

Residents offered comments both for and against native plants.

Those against native plants offered the following:

- Problems with animal excrement
- Weeds
- Flooding issues

Those for native plants offered the following|:

- They do not consider them weeds; they are just a different approach to gardens.
- Lawns are non-native
- Friends of the Rouge: "They are part of the green water storm structure to prevent flooding, which is comprised of native plants
- Still want to keep the weed ordinance, but beef up the noxious weed ordinance
- Want the ordinance to allow managed gardens
- Want a strict set-back

It was noted that although many attending residents commented on their opinions pertaining to a specific property, the point of the discussion was to discuss a plan for the entire city.

Comments were made that many communities take a managed planting approach with the following parameters:

- What can be planted
- Where it can be planted
- Education for residents is needed for this topic
- Responsibility and accountability go to the residents to follow the ordinance

City Attorney, Carter Fisher, stated there could be an update to the current ordinance.

A possible plan for the city could entail the following:

- Favorable native plant gardening
- Established set-back
- Enforcement of noxious weed ordinance
- Education for Ordinance Officers, if needed
- Natural plants are left alone, while native plants must be tended to
- Possible registration system for homeowners with native gardens that could be checked by Ordinance
- Homeowners would be obligated to follow the rules

Inspection Director, Jerome Hanna, stated there are many properties in the city and if they are maintained, there are no issues, also pointing out the following:

- Consideration of rodents becoming a problem
- Enforcement could be an issue
- Staffing for enforcement becomes an issue
- There is a need to balance responsible gardening
- Resale of homes become an issue when living near the homes with this type of gardening
- There needs to be management of the areas

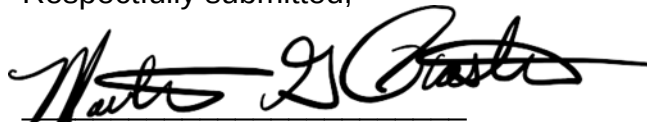
The Committee recommends:

1. For the Greenleaf Commission to propose possible regulations on native plant gardens
2. For the Law Department to draft an updated Noxious Weed ordinance upon receipt of the above-mentioned

Note: This item will remain in Committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of December 18, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,


Martha Ptashnik, Chair

LAW AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024, 7:00PM

NAME

DEPT OR CONTACT INFO FOR NOTIFICATIONS*
*PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS MEETING

Spaul Vinton
Kam Vinton
Bryan Feldman
Patrick Correy
DK Resina Newton
STEPHEN RAY
Jerome Hanna
Douglas Rossi
Betsy Calhoun
Anne Sullivan
Michael Duweke
Andrea Duweke
Derek Shaffer
David Waxer



LETTER TO THE LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL

1.

Council Office
September 25, 2024

MEETING DATE

LE101424/R110624

PRESENTED BY

AGENDA ITEM

The subject matter of a proposed amendment to the noise ordinance. (CR 253-24)

BACKGROUND DETAILS

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2024

On a motion by Councilmember Toy, supported by Councilmember Jolly and unanimously adopted, it was:

#253-24 RESOLVED, that having considered a communication from Steven Johnson, 18240 Sunset St., Livonia, MI 48152, dated June 24, 2024, wherein he requests a proposed Ordinance amendment to allow noise ordinance enforcement to begin at 10:00 p.m., the Council does hereby refer this item to the Law and Education Committee for its report and recommendation.

PREFERRED COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION (Please complete this field. Attachments are not to be used in lieu of the recommendation)

To discuss the subject matter as presented.

ATTACHMENTS

1. R080724 Noise ord amend Steven Johnson Refer to LE CR 253-24

APPROVED BY

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2024

On a motion by Councilmember Toy, supported by Councilmember Jolly and unanimously adopted, it was:

#253-24 RESOLVED, that having considered a communication from Steven Johnson, 18240 Sunset St., Livonia, MI 48152, dated June 24, 2024, wherein he requests a proposed Ordinance amendment to allow noise ordinance enforcement to begin at 10:00 p.m., the Council does hereby refer this item to the Law and Education Committee for its report and recommendation.

<i>CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 2 (Regular Meeting of July 15, 2024)</i>

Motion:	Toy
Second:	Jolly
Ayes:	Budzinski, Morgan, Toy, Jolly, Ptashnik, Donovic, McCullough
Nays:	None
Absent:	None



LETTER TO THE LIVONIA CITY COUNCIL

2.

Council Office
July 1, 2025

MEETING DATE

LE081825

PRESENTED BY

AGENDA ITEM

The subject matter of potential ordinance amendment(s) related to cloth coverings on fences (CR 157-25).

BACKGROUND DETAILS

At the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2025:

On a motion by Vice President Ptashnik, supported by Councilmember Budzinski, and unanimously adopted, it was:

#157-25 RESOLVED, that upon the motion by Council Vice President Martha Ptashnik, seconded by Councilmember Carrie Budzinski, at the Regular Meeting held May 19, 2025, the Council does hereby refer the subject matter of potential Ordinance amendment(s) related to cloth coverings on fences to the Law and Education Committee for its report and recommendation.

PREFERRED COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION (Please complete this field. Attachments are not to be used in lieu of the recommendation)

To discuss the subject matter as presented.

ATTACHMENTS

1. R051925 Cloth coverings on fences to LE CR 157-25

APPROVED BY

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2025

On a motion by Vice President Ptashnik, supported by Councilmember Budzinski, and unanimously adopted, it was:

#157-25 RESOLVED, that upon the motion by Council Vice President Martha Ptashnik, seconded by Councilmember Carrie Budzinski, at the Regular Meeting held May 19, 2025, the Council does hereby refer the subject matter of potential Ordinance amendment(s) related to cloth coverings on fences to the Law and Education Committee for its report and recommendation.

<i>RESOLUTION REQUESTED BY COUNCIL (Regular Meeting of May 19, 2025)</i>
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Motion:	Ptashnik
Second:	Budzinski
Ayes:	Ptashnik, Budzinski, Scheel, Morgan, Donovic and McCullough
Nays:	None
Absent:	Toy