JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION 06-22.14

A Resolution Opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4732

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Jackson, State of Michigan, states:

WHEREAS, Zillow, a for-profit corporation based in Seattle Washington has been lobbying the Michigan Legislature to pass legislation that undermines the integrity of Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices across the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the legislation that Zillow is lobbying for would require Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices across the state of Michigan to provide for-profit corporations copies of any official records maintained by those offices at a significant discount or in some instances free of any charge. As a result, the taxpayers will be responsible for the costs for providing these records and for the financial burden created by the loss of revenue for these offices; and

WHEREAS, if these bills become law, Zillow and other for-profit corporations will have the ability to demand the manner in which the Register of Deeds and Treasurer must provide copies of official records; and

WHEREAS, if these bills become law, they would impose new restrictions and limits on what Register of Deeds and Treasurer Offices can charge for parcel cards and would burden Michigan taxpayers with the cost to provide records to out-of-state entities and corporate organizations; and

WHEREAS, Zillow and other corporations will capitalize on selling publicly owned records, provided to them free of charge, while at the same time placing Michigan residents at a higher risk for fraud and theft; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan Association of County Clerks, Michigan Association of Register of Deeds, and the Michigan Municipal League are united in opposing Michigan House Bills, 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4732.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Jackson County Board of Commissioners opposes Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4732 as private corporations should not benefit financially from public records at the expense of Michigan taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, Representative Julie Alexander, Representative Sarah Lightner, the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Association of County Treasurers, Michigan

James E. Shotwell, Jr., Chairperson Jackson County Board of Commissioners June 21, 2022

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF JACKSON)
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I, Amanda L. Kirkpatrick, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Jackson, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Jackson, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on June 21, 2022, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout and that an original thereof is on file in the records of the County. I further certify that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that, the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Amanda L. Kirkpatrick, County Clerk/Register of Deeds