

**CITY OF FERNDALE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

FROM: J. Cherilynn Tallman, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution Recognizing the Deaf Professional Arts Network

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:

The Deaf Professional Arts Network (D-Pan) is a Ferndale based national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting educational and vocational opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing community. They have requested a letter of recognition relating to their goals, initiatives and accomplishments. We have created the attached resolution to recognize their essential service to the deaf and hard of hearing individuals who may otherwise be disenfranchised without the services of D-PAN.

COUNCIL AGENDA DATE: November 23, 2009

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: n/a

FINANCE DIRECTOR REVIEW: n/a

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Moved by , seconded by , to adopt the Resolution Recognizing the Deaf Professional Arts Network.

CITY OF FERNDALE

RESOLUTION 2009

RECOGNIZING D-PAN, THE DEAF PROFESSIONAL ARTS NETWORK

At a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Ferndale, Oakland County, Michigan, held in the Council Chambers at 300 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale MI 48220 on the 23rd day of November, 2009

The following resolution was moved by and seconded by:

The Deaf Professional Arts Network, known as D-PAN, is a Ferndale based national non-profit organization dedicated to serving the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. D-PAN was formed in 2007 to promote professional development and access to the entertainment, visual and media arts fields for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Since its inception, D-PAN has made great strides in bridging the divide between the hearing and deaf/hard-of-hearing communities through music. The organization has won professional accolades, received significant reviews from the music community, elicited support from the corporate sector and has had enthusiastic response for their ground-breaking ASL (American Sign Language) music videos. The videos have garnered over one million internet hits and have been featured twice on CNN.

D-PAN is necessary to serve the approximately 4 million deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals between the ages of 18-35. Many of these young people are unable to pursue educational and vocational opportunities without the assistance of scholarships and financial aid. About two-thirds of the deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in college are pursuing degrees in art, imaging and computer technologies—including graphic design, visual media and applied arts and sciences.

Despite their success, D-PAN wants to do more to serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing community by re-engineering their organization to enhance the visibility and employment prospects of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. They are committed to insuring the hearing community is aware of, and has access to, these many talented individuals. D-PAN also seeks to promote ASL and continue its tradition of offering employment opportunities to deaf and hard-of-hearing professionals within their own organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ferndale City Council does hereby recognize the work of and express their appreciation to the Deaf Professional Arts Network for their vital contribution to improve the educational and vocational opportunities to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Ferndale and throughout the nation.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

I, Marne McGrath, the duly appointed Deputy City Clerk of the City of Ferndale, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Ferndale at a meeting held on November 23, 2009, the original of which is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature on this 24th day of November, 2009.

Marne McGrath, Deputy City Clerk