

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**April 25, 2023**

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Email: laurie@kingmedianow.comWebsite: KingMediaNow.com**City of St. Johns Mayor Announces Resignation**

St. Johns, MI – At last night’s regular City Commission meeting, Mayor Roberta Cocco announced her resignation and stepped down from the commission. Cocco was elected last November and was sworn in as mayor on November 28, 2022.

“I’m sorry we got to this point,” says Vice Mayor Scott Dzurka, who will assume Cocco’s leadership duties. “We are at a unique time in politics at all levels of government, and change is often fraught with challenges. Our goal is to move forward in a positive direction, always working in the best interests of our residents. While there will not always be agreement between individuals, we remain committed to respect and integrity.”

According to the City of St. Johns Charter, the vacancy left by Cocco will be filled either by appointment until the next municipal election, or by calling a special election. This decision will be made by the remaining commissioners within the next 20 days. Updates will be available at cityofstjohns.com.

In her resignation statement, Cocco cited “the reluctance of staff to provide me with the basic information and material necessary to perform my duty, as well as their reluctance to share standard processes, communication norms or financial records, and I was surprised that my inquiries were met with hostility.” She also stated, “While I remained committed to my role as a public servant, at this time I realize there isn’t much more I can accomplish in this role.”

“It’s unfortunate that Ms. Cocco felt hostility regarding these inquiries,” explains Dzurka. “This situation has, however, shown us that we need to provide more clarity about roles and responsibilities. The commissioners and City staff have been, and will continue to be, a team in pursuit of the best interests of our residents.”

Cocco’s resignation and the departure of former city manager David Kudwa earlier this year are not connected. “Each resigned for different reasons,” says Dzurka.

The City of St. Johns, Michigan is a historic community founded in 1856. Known as the Mint City due to its unique agricultural heritage, St. Johns honors its roots while also planting the seeds for thriving small businesses and industry hubs. The best of both worlds, the city offers a charming, small-town feel with an easy commute to downtown Lansing. St. Johns serves as the Clinton County seat and provides a full range of municipal services to about 8,000 residents. Learn more at cityofstjohnsmi.com.

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