

## *Dear new resident:*

Welcome to the city of Sterling Heights! We thank you for choosing Sterling Heights as your new hometown.

Sterling Heights is growing rapidly and you are an important part of that growth whether you've lived here for a year or for 70 years, as some residents have. We are proud of the history of this area both as a city and as Sterling Township. It came as a result of the interest and dedication of a great number of people who took the time to get involved and provided their spirit and enthusiasm to this community. We invite you to join them in making the future of Sterling Heights even brighter.

Sterling Heights is a young city, incorporated on July 1, 1968. The city operates with a "Council/City Manager" form of government. The council is elected by people like you, and it sets the policies, enacts the ordinances and adopts the city budget. The city manager is responsible for carrying out the policies set by the council and for supervising all of the departments of city government. Sterling Heights is the third largest in area and the fourth largest in population in the state of Michigan. Sterling Heights has a population of 129,699 (2010 census) people living within 36.8 square miles. Sterling Heights is home to more than 3,500 commercial and industrial businesses. Sterling Heights is located just 20-35 minutes northeast of downtown Detroit in the county of Macomb. The hard work and dedication of our professional staff and community volunteers is responsible for the extensive list of awards earned by the organization.

- Sterling Heights is listed in 24/7 Wall Street's List of "America's 50 Best Places to Live." The Delaware-based online financial media company listed Sterling Heights at #41 and recognized our city for being, "one of the most affordable on this list, with a cost of living below the national average and a good affordability ratio – measured as the percentage of median income required to make payments on a median-priced home in the area."
- Sterling Heights retained its ranking in 2013 as Michigan's safest city among communities with more than 100,000 residents, according to FBI statistics.
- CNN/Money.com ranked Sterling Heights fifth in the nation in home affordability (2009).
- Sterlingfest, Sterling Heights' premiere art & jazz fair, was voted Best Summer Festival by readers of the Detroit News and det-news.com (2008).
- Sterling Heights is among the top 100 cities named by Best Life magazine as the "Best Places to Raise a Family." (2008).

We have enclosed some informative information about Sterling Heights in this welcome packet, which you may find interesting. You can also watch and read more about Sterling Heights on our award-winning website – [www.sterling-heights.net](http://www.sterling-heights.net) or visit our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/cityofsterlingheights](http://www.facebook.com/cityofsterlingheights)

If we can be of any further assistance, please call the Sterling Heights Community Relations Department at (586) 446-CITY (2489). City offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sincerely,



Bridget Kozlowski,  
Community Relations Director

