

CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS

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City and Oil Company Respond to False Allegations Regarding Gas and Oil Drilling in Rochester Hills

Rochester Hills, MI – Last week, the group, Don't Drill the Hills (DDH), claimed on social media that it has "discovered" surface oil drilling leases for several sites near Tienken and Adams Roads. Don't Drill the Hills is the same group that unsuccessfully sued the City over an oil and gas lease. The Court dismissed the lawsuit, finding that it lacked merit. The oil and gas lease expressly prohibits surface wells, drilling, and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) at Nowicki and Tienken Parks and the Stony Creek Cemetery.

Don't Drill the Hills is now repeating its history of erroneous statements by spreading fears that drilling is set to take place in the City. The City contacted Jordan Development to get the facts regarding DDH's claims and innuendos about Jordan's oil lease acquisition in Rochester Hills. As suspected, DDH's claims are not true. Jordan has not entered into any leases in over a year and has not recorded any leases since last winter. The leases suddenly "discovered" by Don't Drill the Hills were signed in 2013 and recorded in January 2015. Jordan announced in June 2015 that it was leaving the Rochester area after failing to find oil.

Jordan again reaffirmed what the City has consistently communicated to residents for many months: Jordan ceased oil lease acquisition activity long ago and does not plan to explore for oil in our area. Jordan further reaffirmed that it has not been active in the City for some time nor does it intend to be in the future.

In correspondence dated October 22, 2015, Vice President of Jordan Development Company, Mr. Benjamin Brower specifically stated:

"I thought it would be beneficial to give you an update on our current and future plans in the Rochester Hills area. Jordan has not entered into any leases in this area in over a year and we haven't recorded any leases at the courthouse since last winter. There is apparently a report out there that oil/gas leases were recently recorded covering property in the Rochester Hills area. That is simply not true. We have not had any activity in your area for quite some time and we don't have any intentions to do so in the future. The wells we drilled over the past couple years have not been favorable."

We trust that this information permanently ends the misinformation that has been spread. For additional information, residents should contact the City of Rochester Hills Planning Department at (248) 656-4660.

Established in 1984, the City of Rochester Hills is a prosperous community offering residents and businesses superior services. Voted one of the top places to live by several sources including *CNNMoney* magazine, Rochester Hills is committed to sustaining its position among the nation's preeminent places to live, work and raise a family. Through the city's focus on health, education, and technology; the community continues to attract forward-thinking leaders and businesses.

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