



City of Keego Harbor

2025 Beechmont
Keego Harbor, Michigan 48320

"Heart of the Lakes"

January 15, 2026

The demolition of Roosevelt School continues to be a subject of discussion in the Keego Harbor community. Since the West Bloomfield School District's plan to demolish the school became public, there has been a constant suggestion circulating among some members of the public that the city council and administration have ignored residents' concerns. To the contrary, at the outset, former Mayor Fletcher and council explored the city's legal obligations and rights with respect to the demolition and the property. We engaged legal counsel to advise us in this regard. Our counsel herself retained an environmental engineer with hazardous materials expertise to provide technical guidance to assist her in advising us.

The city council, through the former mayor and our legal counsel, has repeatedly informed the public at council meetings that under state law, the school district property falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the state school superintendent, and the City of Keego Harbor has no regulatory authority over the property or the activities on the property. The state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, EGLE, has issued the demolition permits and continues to oversee the demolition and monitor the progress according to applicable regulations.

We have also previously informed the public that the school district and its contractors have been receptive to the city's concerns. Since the work began at Roosevelt, the city has received daily reports of air quality testing and results from the onsite environmental hygienist related to asbestos detection. The city posts those reports on the front page of our website as soon as we receive them. Thus far, the readings have consistently been significantly lower than even the minimal amount of asbestos exposure that would pose a threat to public health and safety.

Throughout this process, the current and former mayor and council members, and the city manager have been copied on internal emails among a group of individuals comprising both residents and nonresidents, primarily those who brought the prior lawsuit against the school board. These email messages have discussed the group's ongoing concerns about Roosevelt. Recently, some have expressed concern for persons who have suggested that they may have experienced adverse effects due to the demolition. These concerns have not been raised directly with the city administration. To our knowledge, the only concern raised directly at city hall was a question when the demolition would be completed. We do not have the construction schedule, so the person was referred to the school district.

I want to make clear that the city council does not communicate by email because individually, we have no authority to act. So, if we do not respond to those emails, it is because we must discuss and act as a city council only at our public meetings if there is a matter of policy


that we must decide. Lack of response to such emails does not mean that the concerns have fallen on deaf ears; it means only that we cannot conduct public policy via email with only a select group of people.

The most effective way to communicate concerns to the city is a written communication with specific requests directed to the city manager. The city manager oversees the daily operation of the city. Concerned individuals may write to her at the city hall address or to her email address, which is manager@keegoharbor.org. If the subject is within the city's purview, the manager will handle the matter and if necessary, add it to a city council meeting agenda for the council to address at that time. The city manager will provide contact information for any questions that should be directed to the school district.

With respect to any type of legal enforcement, the city presently has no evidence or reason to believe that the work at the Roosevelt property violates any City ordinance. Oakland County Department of Public Works issued a soil erosion permit, and any concerns about earth movement or grading should be directed to them. Concerns about environmental matters should continue to be directed to Jennifer Dixon at EGLE.

It bears repeating that we, the current mayor and council, are members of this community; any detrimental effects of this demolition would affect us and our families as well. We are aware of the concerns raised and will take action if warranted. We appreciate the active engagement of our community and assure our residents of the city government's continued commitment to protection of the public health and safety.

Respectfully,



Joel Ross
Mayor, City of Keego Harbor
On behalf of the City Council