



News Release

For immediate release

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Leaders of the Netherlands and Holland Meet

Holland, MI – City of Holland Mayor Nathan Bocks and Mayor Marco Out of Assen, Netherlands met on Monday, October 9 at City Hall in Assen. Mayor Bocks, City Council member Dave Hoekstra and International Relations Commissioner Michael Start are travelling in the Netherlands on a cultural exchange trip on behalf of the city and the International Relations Commission (IRC).

The mission of the trip is to build a “Friendship Cultural Connection” with the City of Assen. Esther Fifelski, Holland’s Human Relations Director stated, “Our goal as a City and a mission for the International Relations Commission is to build and maintain meaningful relationships between the people of Holland and the wider world through cultural, educational and professional contact. We recognize the demographics of our community are changing to support the area’s economic growth and development and recognize Holland’s historic link to the Netherlands.”

The International Relations Commission voted in early spring of 2022 to officially rededicate the bronze immigrant statue, “De Landverhuizers” Brons by the late Bert Kiewiet (1918-2008) to launch the 2024 International Festival of Holland festivities. The same bronze statue is in Hof van Saksen, a holiday resort, located near the city of Assen. During his visit to the Netherlands, Mayor Bocks will extend an invitation to the Commission of the King, provincial delegates, and delegates from the city of Assen.

Mayor Nathan Bocks was elected Mayor of the City of Holland in November 2019 and is serving his second term. Over the last 20 years, he has served on 15 community boards and commissions, including Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity, City of Holland Board of Appeals, Holland Hospital Medical Ethics Committee, Hospice of Holland Board, and the Holland in Bloom Steering Committee. Nathan moved to Holland, Michigan, to attend Hope College (1989), where he met his wife, Elizabeth. He graduated from Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee (1992) and started his law practice, Central Park Law, LLC in Holland. Nathan and Elizabeth have three children and a daughter-in-law, Duncan and Michelle, Spencer, and Megan.

(more)

About the City of Holland:

The City of Holland, Michigan is a vibrant community in a beautiful lakefront setting. It is a world-class city with a small-town feel, making it one of the best places to live, work and vacation. Holland has been recognized by Forbes Magazine and Money Magazine as one of the safest and most beautiful places in the U.S. and was voted as the “Second Happiest and Healthiest Places to Live in America” by Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. In 2015, Holland landed the number three spot on the Livability.com list as one of the “10 Best Cities for Families.”

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