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Lansing to Create Racial Equity and Anti-Racism Fund

(LANSING) – Mayor Andy Schor, Police Chief Daryl Green, and Human Relations and Community Services (HRCS) Director Kim Coleman today announced that they have asked the Lansing City Council to move \$170,000 of available remaining dollars in the current fiscal year (FY 2019-20) budget into a new Racial Equity and Anti-Racism Fund. This current fiscal year ends June 30, 2020.

The Lansing Police Department has proposed placing \$100,000 into this fund. “The Lansing Police Department fully supports the Mayor in establishing a racial equity and anti-racism fund. We stand ready and willing to help the community that we serve, and if that means dedicating department funds to specific community needs, we are on board,” said Chief Daryl Green.

The Lansing Department of Human Relations and Community Services will end the year with an excess of \$50,000 which is also proposed to be placed in this fund. HRCS Director Kim Coleman said, “We are committed to supporting racial equity and anti-racism initiatives that address human relations, youth development activities and training in the community. As we move forward with this important work, we look forward to seeking input from our community.”

\$20,000 has also been proposed to be repurposed from previously budgeted dollars for racial equity work through My Brother’s Keeper, an initiative that addresses opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color to help ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

“Capitol National Bank, Lansing’s community bank, has volunteered to rally the business community to help provide additional dollars for this fund. The heavy lifting of realizing racial equity in our city is not just the job of one entity, but rather the collective work of many,” said Ed Harden, President of Capitol National Bank.

“It’s important for the City of Lansing to invest in making sure we are a safe, inclusive and equitable community. That’s why I am pleased to propose the creation of the Racial Equity and Anti-Racism Fund, to provide direct help to organizations that are working to make the community we all want a reality. Even though our current fiscal year ends at the end of this month, I think it’s important that we put a down payment on this commitment right now, and I want to hear from residents about how and where we should make additional investments for the future. I look forward to your help, input and guidance,” said Mayor Schor.

This proposal will be sent to the Lansing City Council for consideration. With the budget year ending, these dollars will be available and, if approved by City Council, moved into this new fund. Council President Spadafore and Vice President Hussain have both indicated support and their willingness to put this before the City Council as a first step in the work that needs to be done.

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