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Mayor Andy Schor’s Budget Approved by City Council

FY 2019 Budget Includes Plans to Strengthen Neighborhoods, Invest in Infrastructure and Enhance City Efficiencies

(LANSING) – Mayor Andy Schor’s first executive budget, encompassing the city’s 2018-19 fiscal year, was unanimously approved by the Lansing City Council. The budget includes strategic investment in strengthening neighborhoods and corridors, improving streets and sidewalks and more efficient city staffing among other vital areas.

“I am proud to have my first budget pass unanimously today, reflecting my vision for the next year and the future of the City of Lansing,” said Mayor Andy Schor. “I am supportive of the changes made by City Council to add a third new full-time code compliance officer, accomplished with the reduction of the Lansing City Market which I also support. I am happy the City Market will remain open throughout the summer, and we expect to have exciting things coming for the City Market space.”

Mayor Schor’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Executive Budget outlines an overall citywide budget of \$218.6 million, 4.9% more than FY 2018 adopted budget. That amount includes a \$134.3 million general fund budget, a 4.6% increase from FY 2018 adopted budget, that falls within the City’s target range.

Mayor Schor’s first Executive Order as Mayor created the new Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement Department. The budget continues to highlight Schor’s vision to strengthen neighborhoods by increasing available grant funding for neighborhoods, including additional code compliance staffing and providing greater incentives for City of Lansing employees to live within the city.

The budget also highlights a strong commitment to infrastructure, including a plan for both road and sidewalk maintenance and repair. “The most common discussion I had with residents throughout the last year is the condition of the roads. While the state and federal governments have continually underfunded all local governments in their infrastructure needs, Lansing needs to prioritize the funding that we do receive to have the greatest impact for our residents and visitors,” said Mayor Schor. “I am happy that the recommended \$400,000 from the General Fund for road repair remained in the budget, making this the first time in four years that the City of Lansing will allocate General Fund dollars for road repair.”

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Mayor Schor is committed to an increased focus on customer service. Upon reviewing City operations, Schor's budget includes adjustments to the City's current staffing structure including new positions in the Office of Financial Empowerment, Lansing Public Media Center and Treasurer's Office. Additionally, a full-time, City-employee social worker will be hired to assist in police and other response calls.

As announced during his State of the City, Mayor Schor has rebooted the Financial Health Team (FHT) under the continued leadership of former Mayor David Hollister to address legacy costs facing the city. The budget contains \$45 million for pension and retiree healthcare costs and an additional \$2.3 million for retiree healthcare prefunding.

Mayor Schor's city budget plan was formally passed by City Council at their regular council meeting earlier this evening. Mayor Schor noted that he is looking forward to working with City Council moving forward with the budget plan.

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