

City Administrator's Report – October 1, 2018

Prepared for Council. Kindly forward questions, comments, or suggestions for input to hlazarus@a2gov.org or shiggins@a2gov.org.

Safety Notes

A2 Be Safe! Check out the [tips and resources](#) on the city website to help ensure safe travels for all.

Success Stories

National Citizen Survey Results. During July and August, the City of Ann Arbor conducted the National Citizen Survey™ (NCS), a collaborative effort between the National Research Center Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The statistically valid survey captured opinions of a representative sample of residents of the city of Ann Arbor. *Ann Arbor residents rated the community as meeting or exceeding the national benchmarks in all categories and the results were equal to or better than the 2015 survey in all areas.*

According to the NCS Community Livability Report, "Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community." How residents rate their overall quality of life is an indicator of the overall health of a community. In the case of Ann Arbor, 94 percent rated the city as an "excellent" or "good" place to live.

Other results from the Community Livability Report included:

- Almost all survey participants (97 percent) rated Ann Arbor as an excellent or good place to raise children, which outshined national comparisons.
- 8 in 10 residents indicated they had not reported a crime or been the victim of a crime. Further, respondents who had contact with a member of the Ann Arbor Police Department in the 12 months prior to the survey felt positively about their interaction, with at least three-quarters rating the various aspects related to the conduct of that officer as excellent or good.
- As in previous years, Ann Arbor residents identified the economy as one of the top community focus areas for the coming two years.
- The cost of living and affordable housing were rated favorably by less than one-fourth of residents. These ratings lagged behind other communities across the nation and decreased since 2015.
- In 2018, more respondents were appreciative of the overall ease of travel and ease of walking (which eclipsed ratings awarded nationwide). Bus or transit services were also rated higher in Ann Arbor than elsewhere.
- Most residents indicated they would increase their driving times to reduce pedestrian, cyclist and motorist crashes, injuries and deaths, with about one-quarter reporting they would substantially increase their driving time to prevent accidents.
- As in years past, reviews for street repairs were lower than national averages and should remain an area of focus to maintain high standards of mobility in Ann Arbor.

The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across the NCS communities. The NCS has administered the survey more than 1,000 times in 350 different municipalities throughout the United States. The survey captures residents' opinions within three pillars of a community — Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation — and across eight central facets of a community, including Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement.

Previous survey results (2007, 2008, 2013 and 2015) are available on the city's [website](#). The 2018 survey results include the following reports:

- [Community Livability Report](#) (PDF): This report is the most universal and summarizes all the results and key findings. This report captures what makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be.
- [Dashboard Summary of Findings](#) (PDF): A summary of resident ratings across eight facets and three pillars of a livable community.
- Comparisons by [Demographic](#) (PDF) and [Geographic](#) (PDF) Subgroups.
- [Trends over Time](#) (PDF): This report compares 2018 ratings to previous survey results.
- [Technical Appendices](#) (PDF): Complete survey responses, benchmark comparisons, detailed survey methods and survey materials.

Council Priorities/Initiatives

City Council and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will hold their annual Joint Work Session on Monday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at CTN, 2805 S. Industrial Hwy, #200.

Previews

The **October 1 Council Meeting** will feature the following items of interest:

Administrator's Communication items:

- ***Memorandum from City Administrator: Staff Study on Development/Disposition of Property at 350 S. Fifth Avenue (Y-Lot) - September 21, 2018***
- ***Memorandum from City Administrator: Response to Resolution R-18-275 - Resolution Regarding Citizen Input and Process for City Street-Related Improvement Projects - September 24, 2018***
- ***Memorandum from City Administrator: Emergency Purchase Order for Barton Dam Right Embankment Boil Repair to ET MacKenzie (\$30,000) and Budget Allocation (\$72,000)***
- ***Memorandum from City Administrator: Utility Connection Requirements Related to City-Initiated Annexation***

- **Memorandum from City Administrator: Response to Resolution R-18-294 - Downtown Design Review Evaluation**
- **Memorandum from City Administrator: Response to Resolution R-18-291 One Community Quarterly Report**

Public Hearings (2)

- At second reading **An Ordinance to Amend Section 2:42.3 of Chapter 28 (Building Sewers for Accessory Dwelling Units) of Title II of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor (Ordinance No. ORD-18-28)**
- **A Resolution to Petition the State of Michigan Boundary Commission to Annex Various Parcels from the Charter Township of Ann Arbor, the Charter Township of Pittsfield, and Scio Township**

First Readings

- An **Ordinance to Amend Section 8:413 of Chapter 103 (Historic Preservation) of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor Regarding Extension of Authorization for Work in Historic Districts**
- An **Ordinance to Create the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission** (Eaton, Kailasapathy, and Bannister)
- An **Ordinance to Create the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission** (Mayor Taylor)

WIP (Work in Progress)

Staff is working on the following items pursuant to Council directions:

ITEM	DUE DATE	DUE DATE	STATUS
R-18-173	Resolution of Interest Regarding 350 S. Fifth Avenue	August 31, 2018	AC item on October 1 Agenda
R-18-291	Resolution Supporting One Community Initiative and Ongoing Equity Work	Quarterly Update due September 30, 2018	AC item on October 1 Council Agenda
R-18-294	Resolution to Direct Planning Commission to Evaluate Design Review process for Downtown Buildings	October 15, 2018	AC item on October 1 Council Agenda

City Road Projects to Resume, Following Labor Dispute Delays. Several road projects in Ann Arbor have been affected by a labor dispute between Operation Engineers Local 324 and the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association. While the labor dispute was resolved as of Sept. 27, this three-plus-week dispute has caused delays in various city projects, the full effects of which are still uncertain. Residents should be aware that weather may also impact the schedule of these projects, even when work resumes.

Impacted projects include:

Crest/Washington/Buena Vista: After several delays, the contractor is scheduled to put down a final layer of asphalt on Saturday/Sunday, Sept. 29–30. At that point, this project will be substantially complete.

Pauline Boulevard: The contractor placed the first two layers of asphalt on the south side of the road on Sept. 27, and is now completing work on the remainder of the north side (from Redeemer to Seventh). The entire project is currently expected to be completed by late October.

Scio Church Road: The first two layers of asphalt were placed during the week of Sept. 24 on the south side of the road. The contractor is expected to begin work on the north side of the road in the first week of October. A completion date for this project is still uncertain.

Local street resurfacing: Concrete work is continuing on the remaining local streets. The general contractor plans to complete all of the scheduled work this season.

The city website features details about local road and lane closures, www.a2gov.org/roads.

NAP Fall Controlled Burn Season Kickoff Meeting October 8. A public meeting and Q & A on controlled burns will be held Monday, Oct. 8, 7–8:30 p.m., at the Natural Area Preservation office, 3875 E. Huron River Drive. If you are unable to attend and would like to learn more, contact NAP at 734.794.6627, email NAP@a2gov.org, or visit a2gov.org/NAPburn. City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation (NAP) will be conducting controlled ecological burns in local natural areas between Oct. 9 and Dec. 21. Burns are conducted on weekdays between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., weather permitting. On the day of a controlled burn, signs will be posted around the park, and staff will be available on site for questions. The fire will be under control at all times.

November 6 General Election Information. The General Election will occur in all Ann Arbor wards on Tuesday, Nov. 6. All city polling places will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. For ballot information, visit www.a2gov.org/elections. To locate your ward and/or polling place, go to the Michigan Voter Information web page at www.michigan.gov/vote or contact the city clerk's office at 734.794.6140 or in person.

The final day to register to vote in the general election is Tuesday, Oct. 9. For those planning to vote absentee, the Ann Arbor city clerk's office will be open special hours Saturday, Nov. 3, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. for voters to pick up or turn in General Election absentee ballots. All absentee ballots must be returned to the city clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Election Day. The city clerk's office is located on the second floor of Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. On-street or lot parking is available off of Ann Street, east of Fifth Avenue. In-person requests for absentee ballots will be accepted at the city clerk's office until 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5. Voters requesting ballots on Nov. 5 must vote and return the ballot that same day.