

City Administrator's Report – January 8, 2018

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

Safety Notes

Even though we are hearty Michiganders, the temperatures and wind chill levels we will continue to see throughout the winter can and will whip through the heartiest among us. If you are outside at all – even just for a short period - be aware of how rapidly frostbite and other cold weather injuries can happen if you are not adequately prepared. Please spread the word, and check on each other to keep our team warm, toasty, and protected during this time of extreme temperature. Remember that “Go Blue” should not apply to fingers, toes, and nose!!! **Be Safe A2!**

Success Stories

The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) has approved the 15th District Court Plan for Standards 1-4, which address legal representation of defendants. Our local courts continue to be a model for others in Michigan to emulate.

USDA-NRCS notified the Greenbelt Program that the City's application to the FY 2018 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) was successful, and that we were awarded \$1.04 million towards the purchase of agricultural conservation easements over 5 years. The City was the lead partner in this application, and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Legacy Land Conservancy, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, and Ann Arbor, Augusta, and Scio Townships were contributing partners.

Council Priorities/Initiatives

Independent Review of Ann Arbor Police Department Community Engagement Practices. The report is available via Legistar and posted on the [City Administrator's AAPD Community Engagement Practices](#) web page. Staff is evaluating next steps, so please keep informed through our City's web site and social media outlets.

Previews

The **January 8 Council Meeting** will feature the following items of interest:

- ***A Public Hearing and An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Ann Arbor by Adding a New Chapter, which New Chapter Shall Be Designated as Chapter 6, Procedures for Removal of Councilmembers, of Title I of Said Code***

The **January 12 Special Work Session** scheduled in Council Chambers at 11 a.m. is an informational session presented by DTE and ITC regarding the DTE Southern Power Project extending mid-level voltage

lines from South State Street northerly to approximately Huron and Glen, preliminary routing maps through parts of Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4. Topics include: an overview of the project; why the project is being undertaken; timing of the work; routes to be taken; and impacts to traffic.

WIP (Work in Progress)

Staff has completed the revision to the City's **Green Fleet Policy**, and incorporated input from the Energy Commission and Environmental Commission. Staff will provide the final document to City Council within the next few weeks.

Deer Management. The 2018 program is underway. Information and closure map is available on the website. <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/community-services/Pages/2018-Program.aspx>

The City and County are collaborating on the **One Community: Promoting Racial Equity in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County** initiative. Promotion efforts include a video containing interviews with several of our elected officials and the City and County Administrator.

Other

City of Ann Arbor Citizens Academy. With the success of the Ann Arbor Citizens Police, Fire, and Courts Academy, the City of Arbor will launch an Ann Arbor Citizens Academy (A2CA) this spring to provide a broader view of local government for Ann Arbor residents.

During a series of six weekly sessions, from March 28 to May 2, 6:30–8:30 p.m., participants will connect with city staff and elected officials and learn more about long-term city planning efforts, day-to-day operations and the importance of civic involvement. Session topics include: Finance and Budgeting; Voting and Elections; Parks and Recreation; Planning and Preservation; Public Works; Engineering; Sustainability; Water Quality; Police Services; Fire Services; Community Television Network; and City Council. The class will culminate with a graduation ceremony on May 7, 7–8:30 p.m.

Applications to participate are due by 5 p.m. Friday, March 2, 2018. There are two components to the application process. All applicants must complete and submit an [online application](#).

For more information, visit www.a2gov.org/A2CA.

2018 Sustainability Forum Series Kicks Off Jan. 11 with Focus on Electric Vehicles. Join the conversation about sustainability in Ann Arbor! The City of Ann Arbor and the Ann Arbor District Library are hosting the seventh annual Sustainable Ann Arbor series. A think tank of local stakeholders, including community organizations, local government staff, businesses and residents, will join the public each month, January through April, to discuss local sustainability efforts and challenges in our community. The forums offer an opportunity to learn more about sustainability in the community and tips for actions that residents can take to live more sustainably. The first event of the 2018 series will be held 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Details of this series are also posted online at www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/climate-sustainability/sustainability/Pages/SustainableAnnArborForum.aspx.

Christmas Tree Disposal. Christmas trees cannot be discarded on the street or left out at curbs.

The City of Ann Arbor provides residents with four free drop-off locations for undecorated Christmas trees through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018.

All tree stands, nails, ornaments, tinsel and plastic must be removed before leaving at these sites.

Drop off will be permitted at these park parking lots during the hours of 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. only:

- West Park parking lot, off Chapin near West Huron Street.
- Gallup boat launch parking lot, use entrance on the southeast side of Geddes Road, east of Huron Parkway.
- Olson Park parking lot, 1515 Dhu Varren Road, near Pontiac Trail.
- Southeast Area Park parking lot on the east side of the park.

The collected trees will be chipped on a regular basis at the park sites.

Please note, the city's Drop-off Station on East Ellsworth near Platt Road will not be a site for discarded Christmas trees as it had been in previous years.

After Jan. 31, 2018, Christmas trees must be cut, bundled and saved until the city's compost collection service resumes in April or be delivered for a fee to the Compost Center, located at 4150 Platt Road, which is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.