

**PRESENTATION OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES TO MAYOR**

The draft of the Ann Arbor City Council minutes, being the record of the Council meeting of May 18, 2020, was presented to the Mayor at the time and date stamped below:

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR  
CITY CLERK**

**May 20, 2020**

**Time: 12:00 p.m.**

*Jacqueline Beaudry*

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Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk

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**MAYOR'S APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

I, Christopher Taylor, Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor, have received the record of the Ann Arbor City Council meeting of May 18, 2020.

Date: May 22, 2020

*Christopher Taylor*

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Christopher Taylor, Mayor

Approved as presented.

Approved except as to the disapproval filed in writing with City Clerk, pursuant to City Charter Section 4.5.

**THIS RECORD TO BE FILED IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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Office of Mayor  
Christopher M. Taylor

May 22, 2020

Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry  
301 East Huron Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Re: Veto-in-part of Resolution 20-0665, Enactment No: R-20-177

Dear Clerk Beaudry,

City Council must keep our September 2017 promise to use County Millage rebate monies to fund the crucial priorities of climate action, affordable housing, and pedestrian safety. Resolution 20-0665, Enactment No: R-20-177 (the "Resolution") revokes this promise. For this reason, I veto the Resolution in part.

In September 2017, City Council passed the 40-40-20 Pledge to establish how Ann Arbor would spend eight (8) years of unallocated rebate monies if voters passed the County's Mental Health/Public Safety/Rebate Millage (the "Millage"). The 40/40/20 Pledge was never legally binding, but it was a pledge to the voters to use rebate monies to fund critical priorities that were then chronically under-funded – 40% for climate action, 40% for affordable housing, and 20% for pedestrian safety.

The 40/40/20 Pledge was the subject of substantial public conversation, two Council votes, numerous articles in the paper, and a variety of email-campaigns, reaching many thousands of Ann Arbor voters many times. When the voters passed the Millage, they went to the polls in reliance in part upon Council's promise. The 40-40-20 Pledge is, therefore, an obligation of honor.

I have stated this position on numerous occasions and expressed my commitment to do everything within my authority to maintain our fidelity to the 40-40-20 Pledge. It should come as no surprise to anyone that today I act upon that commitment.

We spend tens of millions each year on each of following: roads, water, police, fire, and solid waste because local government's mission is to improve basic services and enhance quality of life. We deliver on this mission every day with a dedicated and professional staff and organization that is second to none, even though our resources have always been limited.



Today, we experience unique times. The revenue shortfalls as a result of the pandemic are real, but even in the midst of the crisis, climate change remains our society's #1 threat. Even during COVID-19, the economic and racial segregation driven by legacy land use policy and insufficient affordable housing in Ann Arbor remains our #1 obstacle to a community that embodies our core values of equity and pluralism. Even as we distance outdoors during Stay Home Stay Safe, we appreciate more than ever bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting.

When I envisioned and proposed the 40/40/20 Pledge, I did so in order to provide predictable funding for three perpetually under-resourced priorities. When the voters passed the Millage and secured rebate monies, City Hall was at long last able to take real and meaningful action – the development of our exciting A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan (unfortunately still unadopted, but that's another story); much needed rehabilitation and maintenance of existing units as well as the acquisition of new and permanent affordable housing; and the implementation of new bike lanes and crosswalk signals. The monies provided by 40/40/20 are insufficient to achieve all our housing, climate, and safety goals, but they are necessary. The stability that Millage funding provides in difficult economic times is invaluable.

The Resolution as passed does not itself reduce funding for climate action, affordable housing, or pedestrian safety, but by breaking the 40/40/20 Pledge, the Council majority put the public on notice that these priorities would be vulnerable – unprotected and ready for the chopping block. Affordable housing, climate action, and pedestrian safety represent a small portion of our budget. We should not look here, of all places, for savings. We need to deepen our commitments in these vital areas, not walk them back. It's a question of equity, sustainability, and public safety.

The Resolution retracts the 40-40-20 Pledge and would permit Millage rebate monies to be pulled from climate action, affordable housing, and pedestrian safety. I, therefore and hereby, exercise my authority under City Charter Section 4.5 to veto resolutions in-part by disapproving the following text contained in the Resolution:

“RESOLVED, That the proceeds the City receives from the County Mental Health and Public Safety millage are treated like all other unrestricted, general purpose tax revenues with Council determining annually how they are to be utilized as part of the budget process;”

The balance of the Resolution remains in force.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher Taylor