



Andy Schor, Mayor

Mayor Andy Schor's State of the City Speech Highlights

Mayor Andy Schor laid out his vision of economic development and jobs; infrastructure investment including roads; strong neighborhoods; and excellent education during his State of the City Speech at Pattengill Academy on February 7th, 2018.

SCHOOLS

- Mayor Schor will designate someone at the city to be a liaison between the City of Lansing and the Lansing School District. This individual will work with Lansing schools to help the city to support and promote Lansing School District programs. This will provide better customer service to all residents, and this includes those in Lansing schools.

NEIGHBORHOODS

- Mayor Schor's first executive order was to make neighborhoods a top priority by creating a **Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement**. This new Department places neighborhoods front and center in his administration, and will greatly improve the way the city communicates with citizens. (Director: Andi Crawford)
- Some exciting programs of the department include:
 - Walking Wednesdays - Weekly walking tours in neighborhoods throughout the city.
 - Housing and Neighborhood Resource Summits – Quarterly events bringing important city resources and information to Lansing's residents. Location will vary.
 - Citizen's Academy - The Academy will focus on exploring many facets of city government and give citizens an opportunity to learn how the City of Lansing operates.
 - Serve Lansing – A citywide community service plan to increase citizen engagement and connect residents with volunteer opportunities. Partners include: Michigan State University, the United Way, the Lansing Board of Water and Light, and the Red Cross.
 - Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) - Nationally recognized program that helps citizens save money for the future. OFE has been moved to the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement.
 - Midnight Basketball: Coming this summer to Lansing, Midnight basketball is a nationally proven concept that lifts youth through a structured athletic environment that

emphasizes team work, camaraderie, discipline, interpersonal skills, and attention to educational enrichment.

ARTS AND CULTURE

- Mayor Schor will establish a blue-ribbon commission on arts and culture. The commission will be asked to make recommendations on how we can ensure art and culture and entertainment are an integral part of the Lansing community.

RIVERFRONT

- City of Lansing is partnering with the Capital Region Community Foundation to update and upgrade the downtown riverfront. The Community Foundation is leading the way by granting up to one million dollars to match contributions from businesses, organizations and individuals toward these projects.
 - Projects to include:
 - New kayak launches
 - Boat docking
 - Riverbank classroom near Impression 5
 - Lighted forest, fireplaces
 - Both new and improved parks and fishing areas
 - Others TBA
- Projects to begin in Spring of 2018

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- As an effort to prioritize new jobs and development in Lansing, Mayor Schor created a new Department of Economic Development and Planning. (Director: Brian McGrain)
- Mayor Schor announced a new partnership with Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) that will provide small business financing to entrepreneurs in Lansing and throughout the region.
 - Fund Lansing:
 - New program that will utilize the global online crowd-lending platform Kiva in order to leverage more funding for startup businesses. By using the proven Kiva method, more people in the region will have access to zero interest loans of up to \$10,000 to achieve their dreams of owning their own business.
 - With LEAP's help, the City of Lansing will take Fund Lansing a step further to provide additional support to Lansing-based entrepreneurs. For qualified small businesses in the City of Lansing, we will match the loan funds raised by Kiva, **dollar for dollar**.

- Fund Lansing will fill a big need for local entrepreneurs who wish to start or expand a business, but can't get financing through traditional lending sources.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Mayor Schor's new "Road Map Neighborhood Tour" will begin in March. The Mayor, new Public Service Director, Andy Kilpatrick and City Council members will visit with residents in neighborhoods to discuss their roads and develop a strategic plan together.
 - The city currently spends over 5 million dollars on road projects each year.
 - The city needs to spend close to 25 million annually just to maintain Lansing streets in their current condition.
- Transparency: There will be a comprehensive list of the roads that have been fixed, and the cost of those fixes, on the City of Lansing website.
- Mayor Schor announced that in the coming year, we will dedicate all of the dollars raised through Lansing's dedicated road millage only towards road projects and fixing roads.
- Citizens will soon be able to track online when their street was plowed, thanks to GPS based automatic vehicle location technology that was recently installed on Lansing's plow trucks. The goal is to expand this program to all city vehicles, including code enforcement and building safety vehicles.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The Lansing Police and Fire Departments work hard to keep us safe every day, and that hard work has resulted in violent crime being down 13 percent in Lansing in the last two years.
- MobilePD, a new smartphone app that can be used to report crime to the Lansing Police Department, will launch in 2018.
 - The app is complimentary to Lansing Connect, a web and smartphone based app which allows citizens to report code violations, streetlights that are out, and other city services where people need assistance: www.lansingmi.gov/lansingconnect.

METRICS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Metrics are very important to ensuring a successful city and Mayor Schor plans to use meaningful metrics and data for better governance to ensure a bright future for Lansing.
- Mark Lawrence, the new Citizen Advocate, will be housed in the Mayor's Office. His job will be to work with residents, visitors and businesses to ensure there is efficient and effective response time and customer service in the City of Lansing. Mark will start in his new position at the end of February 2018.

INTER-FAITH AND DIVERSITY

- Mayor Schor will create a Diversity Commission to celebrate the great diversity that we display every day in Lansing, and to find ways to work the issues that may divide us.
- Mayor Schor will also create an Inter-Faith Advisory Council, organized by the Lansing Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, as a source of input and collaboration with the faith community regarding social challenges, quality of life, and ensuring that Lansing is a welcoming city to all.

REGIONAL SUMMIT

- The Mayor announced that he is organizing a regional summit for 2018. Michigan State University has agreed to convene this summit and to provide a place to meet, in addition to other resources, so that this discussion can be successful for all of us in the Lansing region.

FINANCIAL HEALTH TEAM

- Mayor Schor is rebooting the Lansing financial health team. This important resource, originally put together by Mayor Bernero in 2012, provides necessary experience and is a critical resource to address the City of Lansing's future financial challenges.
- Michigan State University has committed aid and resources to the City of Lansing towards updating the original report from 2013, as well as student resources to help the city grapple with this important challenge.

Lansing's Time is Now!