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## **Capital City Midnight Basketball Program**

(LANSING) – Mayor Andy Schor is happy to announce the successful launch of Capitol City Midnight Basketball, which occurred on Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center. This initiative is designed to provide an alternative and wholesome recreational venue during the critical summer hours of between 8:00 P.M. and 12 midnight for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 25. With over 100 young people registering and attending the first weekend, the opening was indeed highly successful. Tim Lloyd who is the coordinator of the program said he expects even more to participate as the summer moves and on. He indicated the energy and excitement of the youth was wonderful to see and that sportsmanship and mutual respect for each other was clearly the prevailing mindset during Midnight Basketball.

“I had the opportunity to take the first shot during the opening night of Capitol City Midnight Basketball, and it was a blast to spend the evening shooting hoops and socializing with Lansing’s youth,” said Mayor Schor. “These young men and women are not only honing their basketball skills in a safe and fun environment, they are also being enriched through socialization and life skills of the program.”

Midnight Basketball was made possible by generous gifts from Kelly Dean, Pat Gillespie and other community leaders who are willing to invest in our young people and their great future. Mayor Schor stated during his State of the City address his commitment to addressing historical core urban problems that disproportionately and negatively impact young people of color.

Mayor Schor tasked, Bishop David Maxwell, his director of Community and Faith Based Initiatives to bring the nationally acclaimed concept of Midnight Basketball to Lansing. Many cities have experienced positive results from Midnight Basketball and Bishop Maxwell indicated that he expects positive results for Lansing. A cross section of stakeholders, such as the Lansing School District, Lansing Parks and Recreation, The Lansing Police Department, the Mickey 23 foundation and other socially conscience stakeholders have been enlisted to support this effort.

Mayor Schor in particular noted the tremendous support of the Lansing Police Department for their support and the great partnership of the Lansing School District. Mayor Schor stated that Midnight Basketball is not the end of Lansing's efforts in this vital area but a starting point of an intentional effort to help our urban youth maximize their potential and continue to be productive citizens.

The program will run every Friday and Saturday from 8:00 P.M. to 12 midnight through August 25<sup>th</sup>. Young people can go to Eventbrite/Capitol City Midnight basketball to pre-register or call 517-483-4542 for more information. The cost is free and walk-up registration is open each night of the program.

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