



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR
124 W. Michigan Avenue – Ninth Floor
Lansing, MI 48933

February 2, 2021

Dear Governor Whitmer:

Thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. We understand your administration has had to make hard decisions to keep our community and state safe during this global pandemic.

As you know, one of the challenges continuing to face us on the road ahead is the recovery of our local businesses. Here in Lansing, we have an additional struggle with so many state employees working remotely. The state government is one of our largest employers, being the Capital City of Michigan.

With state employees working remotely, the financial impact on Downtown Lansing is significant. In downtown Lansing alone, it is estimated that 15% of our businesses have closed over the last year due to the lack of business. It is projected that downtown could lose up to 25% of our dining, retail, or entertainment-based businesses due to dramatically reduced business sales.

We understand and fully support your decisions to keep state employees safe; I also applaud your efforts to get vaccinations to residents as quickly as possible. And I am proud of Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail's hard work to ensure Ingham County residents are vaccinated as soon as possible. We look forward to the State of Michigan continuing to push the federal government to free-up more vaccine doses in the supply chain so that our state-workers and small business owners can receive the vaccine.

Should any changes be necessary for state employees' future work schedules, we strongly request that downtown Lansing is part of the consideration. A significant reduction by one of our leading job providers, especially after the economic challenges for all of us due to the pandemic, would be a long-term problem for the City of Lansing. We would need the assistance of the state both financially and with state incentives. Hopefully, instead, state employees can return to their full-time Lansing jobs once it is safe to do so.

Once state and local health department leaders deem it is safe to do so, we request that you ensure that state employees return to work in-person. While we know that things will change permanently due to the impacts of COVID-19, the City of Lansing needs state employees back at work fully and as soon as safely possible.

Thank you again for your leadership. We would suggest pulling together a public, private workgroup with downtown businesses and your administration to ensure downtown Lansing's continued vibrancy. And we look forward to the time when we all can sit down for lunch in Downtown Lansing!

Sincerely,



Mayor Schor



Tim Daman



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