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City Unveils Plan to Build Vibrant New Future for Historic Lansing City Market

Proceeds from Riverfront “Market Place” Project to Finance Construction of \$1.6 Million, Year-Round Facility

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero today unveiled the City’s plan to breathe new life into the historic Lansing City Market with the construction of a new \$1.6 million facility on the banks of the Grand River in downtown Lansing.

The proposed facility will include an 11,000 square foot building for year-round market vendors as well as outdoor accommodations for seasonal vendors. The entire development will be integrated with the existing public park space on the riverfront. The new market will be constructed by the City of Lansing under a Project Labor Agreement with local unions.

“The best way for us to honor the proud history of our City Market is by repositioning it for a vibrant new future,” said Mayor Bernero. “The new City Market will be right in the center of the major redevelopments happening all along our riverfront.”

Mayor Bernero also announced that a development agreement has been reached for the construction of the Gillespie Group’s Market Place project, a mixed-use residential and retail complex that will rise on the site of the existing City Market building. Proceeds from the sale of the current market site will be used to finance the new market facility.

“The Market Place development will continue to build a critical mass of new residents in downtown Lansing who will have an exciting new City Market right on their doorstep,” said Pat Gillespie, president of the Gillespie Group. “With destination retail and recreational activities in the mix, this project represents another huge step forward in creating a major entertainment district in the center of the city. There is no question that it will spark even more investment and job creation for Lansing residents.”

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Over the past eight months, City leaders and the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA) have worked hand-in-hand with market vendors, experts from Michigan State University and the United States Department of Agriculture, and other community stakeholders to design the new market facility.

“This has been a very comprehensive and inclusive process that looked at all the options. We considered what it would take to preserve the old building and for constructing a new facility,” said LEPFA President and CEO Eric Hart. “We understand that some folks would prefer to keep things as they are, but it is not cost-effective for us to continue operating a 70-year-old building.”

City Market Manager John Hooper said he believes the new facility will make the City Market a more exciting destination for Lansing residents and visitors from across the region, as well as a more profitable enterprise for market vendors.

“This is a bold and visionary plan to help us reinvent the market for the next century,” Hooper said. “We have begun to recreate a new energy and atmosphere at the current market and a new venue will further enhance the market experience. Our vendors overall embrace the concept of a new market as long as the process is inclusive.”

City officials said the Market Place development agreement will be filed with the City Clerk by the end of the week and will be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration. The project will also require the approval of economic incentives by the Council and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

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