INTRODUCTION

The Michigan State University Center for Urban Affairs, Community and Economic Development Program is committed to developing and applying knowledge to address the needs of society - primarily urban communities. Specifically, our mission is "to facilitate the use of university and community resources to address urban issues that enhance the quality of life." The mayors of Michigan’s older central cities formed the Urban Core Mayors group in 1992 to provide an opportunity to share information and ideas about common concerns and to promote mutually beneficial statewide public policies. Since 1995, the MSU Community and Economic Development Program has assisted the Urban Core Mayors by helping to organize meetings and facilitating communication among group members.

Purpose of Document

The twelve core cities of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bay City, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Pontiac, Saginaw) represent over 20% of the state’s population. This document consists of summaries of the 1999 State of the City addresses by mayors of six of the core cities. These summaries were prepared as a service for the Urban Core Mayors by the MSU Center for Urban Affairs, Community and Economic Development Program. Copies and/or summaries of each mayor’s State of the City address were compiled into a consistent format including reported accomplishments from 1998 and initiatives for 1999. Drafts of prepared summaries were then reviewed for accuracy by the respective mayors. This document is intended to be a summative statement of existing information, and not an analysis or evaluative review. Only those core cities for which State of the City materials were available are represented. We apologize for any inadvertent errors that may have occurred in the preparation of this document. For additional information about the information contained in a given summary, readers are advised to contact the office of the originating mayor provided at the conclusion of each section.

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1998 Highlights

· Leads the State and all 11 Renaissance Zone communities (Of the 69 projects statewide, we have 40 of them, representing $51 million of investment and almost 900 jobs…24 tax abatements were given, representing $62 million in investment and another 650 jobs)

· The Van Andel Institute for Medical Research’s headquarters building gets underway

· Cherry Street Landing project announced in addition to the $200 million expansion of the Convention Center

· The City and County agree on a new courthouse

· Grooters Development proposes an industrial park on the South side along U.S. 131

· The City opens its new One-Stop Development Center in October and adopts new downtown zoning code before the end of the year

· Floyd Mayweather wins a world boxing title and is going to bring his next defense home in February

· DASH buses begin running a free shuttle service around downtown through the middle of the day

· Building Reuse Investment Corporation’s $1 million in grants has leveraged $35 million of reinvestment in downtown buildings in less than 24 months

· Steketee’s was first closed as a department store and then captured for renovation by the same team, Peter Secchia and Rockford Construction Company (they have also begun planning Cherry Street Landing and the renovation of the Peck Building)
· The new Residence Hall at Grand Valley State has the name of Ambassador Secchia attached to it

· The Grand Rapids Public Library System received a green light from the voters to go ahead, plan, and fund the restoration of the Ryerson Library and new buildings in other neighborhoods

· The Geographic Information System for the entire region is approved through the Metro Council and is getting underway

· The Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Finance Authority is established and its first "customer" is the Coca-Cola bottling plant on the southwest side of the City. The plan calls for the purchase and reuse of an existing contaminated property. $27 million of new investment and 150,000 square feet of the new building will solve the problem

· United Way leads the charge into the near south side by taking over the Heystek building

· The City has embarked on its own recycling program, which is already proving to be a significant savings for our customers

· The Grand Prix race last summer generated over $4 million of activity in the community

· The Amusement Business Magazine declared that based on gross receipts, the Van Andel Arena is the number one facility in the entire United States in its size range (10,000-15,000 seats)

· NE Beltline Cooperation agreement between the City, Grand Rapids township and Plainfield township is the first significant step in regional land-use planning

Initiatives and Predictions for 1999

· New State revenue sharing formula will bring $10 million of additional funds over the next 8 years
· Clean Michigan initiative will provide significant brownfield clean-up dollars
· Six cities of Grand Rapids, Walker, Grandville, Wyoming, Kentwood, and East Grand Rapids will join together to create a new Act 196 Transit Authority
The Convention Center will receive the necessary state funds to proceed with its development as a joint City/County and Grand Action project.

Further implement the recommendations of the Drug Task Force such as drug court, improving residential treatment programs, and a needle-exchange program. Physicians should obtain the right to dispense maintenance drugs as part of a public health approach.

The second tower at Bridgewater Place will be developed with a national hotel at its bottom and residential housing at the top.

The $2 million investment made in the new Canal Street Park will stimulate expanded residential development in the area, particularly for staff and middle management personnel working in downtown.

Maintain economic growth in the area as it slows elsewhere…the Right Place program has established goals for the region for the next 5 years: 6,000 new manufacturing jobs, $75 million in new payroll and $340 million in new investment.

According to Manpower, Inc., of Kent County, we are the 43rd largest exporting area in the U.S. We will continue to move up that list.

Mobile Metro 2020 Transportation Task Force recommendations have been approved…Federal funding will be sought in planning the new light-rail transit system of the future.

The City will develop a housing and building inspection program, which will have a "zero-tolerance" feature for violators. We will also assist the State government in streamlining the tax reversion process, to permit a faster turnaround on derelict properties.

The City will continue to respect its history: owners of older buildings will be encouraged to find adaptive reuses.

The private-sector fund-raising for the Monroe Mall Phase II redevelopment will be successful and the Maya Lin sculpture, which is the reestablishment of the park at the west end of the mall, will occur within the year 2000.
Lansing

Mayor David C. Hollister

State of the City Report

January 25, 1999

Previous Highlights

· Most successful minor league baseball stadium in America

· A community policing program that is a national model

· The first new middle income housing in the city in 40 years

· 56 new neighborhood playgrounds

· A revitalized entertainment district

· New buildings downtown that are transforming the skyline

· Record levels of building permits reflecting investment in every corner of our city

· Last year we launched a major campaign to keep General Motors here (Lansing Works—Keep GM!)

· Assembled a Blue Ribbon Committee to develop appropriate and necessary strategies to keep GM

Education & Development
CLASS (Commission on Lansing Schools’ Success) has made Lansing a national model for community involvement in school improvement efforts

- Created 6 work groups with over 100 community leaders to tackle the school districts most urgent needs

- Placed 1,100 reading mentors in our elementary schools

- Created a Head Start to Success program that has already helped 100 underprivileged families develop a commitment to learning

- Worked with Lansing Community College to create a CLASS Act mentoring program that assures a college education to African-American males who sign a contract to commit to attend school and get good grades

- Worked with GM and the UAW to place auto workers in our schools as mentors

- CLASS has been a vehicle for creative partnerships, innovation and change

Hill Center for Academics and Technology formed partnership between career-tech and strong education program

- Partnering with Sparrow and Ingham Medical Centers, students learn in a real-world medical setting

- Partnering with General Motors, the United Auto Workers, and the Ingham Intermediate School District, students in the LAMP program learn high-tech skills that prepare
them for good paying manufacturing jobs

-Partnering with Lansing Community College, students in Star Institute prepare for the high-tech, high demand jobs of the future

-Partnering with the Lansing Fire Department, students become trained for the challenging fields of fire fighting and Emergency Medical Services

· Hill Center for Academics and Technology can be considered as a metaphor for the School District as a whole

-Student test scores have improved at record rates

-Important new policies have been adopted by the School Board

-Over 1,100 new volunteers are in the schools

-Blue Ribbon Committee developed a competency test for every high school senior that guarantees basic skills for the world of work and eligibility for college (test not yet implemented)

-Current status of our schools if improving, but still unacceptable
1999 Goals and Challenges

- Set aside our provincial interests and commit to doing whatever is required to make our schools a center of excellence
- Find a satisfactory revenue source for our storm water separation project so that we can continue to clean our wonderful Grand River
- Collaboration with the county to expand our parks
- Work with the State to complete the construction of the Legislative Office Building, renovate the Civic Center, YWCA building and Old State Library
- Begin construction of the new Supreme Court facility
- Bring new economic development and housing to our Renaissance Zones
- Seek creative partnerships to deal with our ongoing school improvement efforts, our Brownfield initiatives and economic development efforts
- Resolve the issue of parking for the Capital Complex and State employees
- Move the Parking System to the Planning Department
- Asking the new "Business Intervention Group" established by the Principle Shopping District to present, within 90 days, the results of their efforts to retain and create new businesses as well as develop residential living downtown
- Increase tourism by 15% a year over the next 5 years
- Implement the master plan for the Boy’s Training School site
- Assist the School District with its plans to renovate buildings, consolidate services, and finance important infrastructure improvements
- Ask the Council to authorize the Parks Department to break ground this spring on the new Entrance Plaza and Education Center at the Potter Park Zoo
- Implement the Robert Wood Johnson and Kellogg Foundation grants designed to provide universal access to health care in our community
• Seek more grant funds from public and private foundations
• Open the North Police Precinct in early March
• Directing the Police Department make the facility accessible to the community and its children
• Design and begin construction of two new fire stations on the South side
• Retain GM
• Improve schools

For more information on Lansing call:

City Hall: 517-483-4141
Fax: 517-483-6066

- Flint

Mayor Woodrow Stanley

State of the City Report

February 1, 1999

- 1998 Highlights

Fire Department

• Grand opening of East Side Fire Station on Western Road

• Conducted successful city-wide mock disaster exercise

• Lowest number of structure fires reported for safest Halloween period on record

• Fire deaths within the City of Flint at an all-time low
· 10 automatic heart defibrillators to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest purchased

· Fire Safety/House Safety Program visited 26 elementary schools

· Purchased two squad trucks and one ambulance

**Police Department**

· Hired 36 new police officers

· $1 million grant from U.S. Department of Justice for local law enforcement block grant

· 12 additional police officers to community policing program

· 42 new police vehicles purchased

· 50 Police Athletic League (PAL) programs initiated—serving 1,518 youth

· Citizens Assisting Police Corp. (CAP Corp) contributed to major decline in traffic problems at the I.M.A. Sports Arena

· Ballenger Highway and Stockdale Police Mini-Station opened

**Department of Public Works & Utilities**

· 272 demolitions of abandoned dwellings

· Over 200 tons of "patch" used to fill pot-holes

· Over $2 million spent on paving and resurfacing approximately 16 miles of city streets

· 6,000 slabs of faulty city sidewalk repaired or removed in Sidewalk Rebate Program

· Leaf Pick-up encompassed collection from 40,000 homes in a 3 week period
· Cleaned over 1,000 drain areas to improve drainage and prevent flooding

· Assisted 167 block clubs with programs related to area cleanups, neighborhood beautification

· Purchased a street paver, street sweeper, three garbage trucks, one 10-yard dump truck and a new sewer cleaner

Department of Parks & Recreation

· Successful launch of annual Youth Day Program

· Parks and Forestry Division

  - 4,800 acres mowed
  - 229 diseased trees removed
  - 489 trees trimmed
  - 500 tons of litter picked-up in forestry and park maintenance

· Obtained approval for design phase of major expansion/renovation project of the I.M.A. Sports Arena

· Purchased mobile public address stage, two mowing tractors and 80 new golf carts

Downtown Development Authority

· Approval and implementation of DDA security and safety plan

· Development of downtown parking plan

Department of Community & Economic Development

· Completed incentive/infrastructure package for new GM engine plant
· Completed negotiations with University Park developers—project includes development of 125 market-rate single family homes

· Grand opening of Clio Woods Development of 84 housing units

· Completed preliminary development activities of Home Ownership Zone

· Provided tax abatements and public improvements for Genesee Packaging Corp. to expand its operations

· Construction began on Shiloh Commons—a development of 125 units of townhouses on the old Northern High School site

· Facilitated $3 million incentive package for new Ramada Plaza Hotel downtown

· Designation of 12 Neighborhood Enterprise Zones which will use property tax relief to encourage residential investment in distressed areas

· Granted industrial tax abatements on new investment in real and personal property to six local companies

Other Activities

· Began installation process of new radio-read water meters

· Moody’s Investors Service upgraded City’s bond rating

· Instituted citizens information hot-line to City Hall: 235-CITY

· Upgrade of dispatching computer software for 911 Emergency Center

· Finalizing implementation of the Year 2000 compliance (Y2K) computer system at City Hall
· Launch of new Job Hot-line—assisting citizens with job openings

· Creation of FRAMES (Flint Building Relationships; Adapting, Mastering Economic and Social Success), an initiative designed to support churches and faith-based groups with community outreach efforts

· Recruitment of more than 5,000 volunteers for a safe Halloween

· Recognition of over 700 students for Student of the Month Program

· People’s Law School boasted 133 graduates

· City Attorney’s Office obtained a 98 percent conviction rate in drunk driving cases

· Award-winning Victim Advocacy Program nominated again for the U.S. Justice Department’s prestigious National Crime Victim’s Rights Award

· Conversion from "legalese" to plain English in drafting of City Council resolutions and City government documents

· Citizen sensitivity training conducted for all 911 employees

· Launch of City’s first Interactive Technology Expo

· Conducted public forums on local cable services

· Over 300 individuals visited Mayor’s Office for "Mayor’s Open Door"

· Flint Fireworks Festival was one of the largest, most diverse festivals in the state

**Mayor’s Initiatives for 1999**

- Commitment to open the City jail holding facility
- Continue demolition of abandoned homes, to reach our goal of 600 by the end of 1999
• Begin construction of the $34 million expansion project for the I.M.A. Sports Arena
• Establishment of the Atwood Stadium Authority, with aggressive new fundraising efforts to complete renovations
• Commitment to purchase new public safety vehicles and equipment
• Hire 15 new firefighters
• Forging ahead with activities in our federally-designated Home Ownership Zone—new home construction, home rehabilitation, and aesthetic improvements
• Continued commitment to neighborhood development with the following projects: Flint Park Lake, Martin-Jefferson, Thread Lake, Delphi West, University Park, and Windcliff
• Anticipate hiring and training 30 new police officers
• Introduction of the H.E.A.T. Program (Heavy Enforcement Activities for Thirty Days). An initiative involving coordination of multiple city services along with the Police CATT team, bringing enforcement saturation for all issues of crime, trash, nuisances, and other violations in specific neighborhoods of need
• Creation of the Police Community Resource Center—creating better communication between the police department and citizens
• Finalize plans for the new West Side Fire Station
• Initiate development of a Youth Referral system for juvenile offenders
• Implementation of the $200,000 federal Juvenile Crime Reduction Grant
• Increase development and security/safety initiatives for downtown
• Expansion of the city’s Total Quality Service process to include residents—for greater coordination of service delivery
• Establish a city-wide Y2K (Year 2000) education and information initiative for better citizen awareness
• Planning and implementation of the joint City/County millennium celebration

For more information on Flint call:
Saginaw
Mayor Gary L. Loster
State of the City Report
February 4, 1999

1998 Highlights

· Re-engineering city services
· Mission: Building healthier city for century ahead
· Crime is down nearly 8%
· 4th in the state for investment in renaissance zones
· Other small businesses are growing and creating jobs in Saginaw
· Enjoying the strongest economy in a generation

1999 Initiatives

· Making Saginaw a family friendly city
· New vision of government: reduce crime, blight and welfare
· Tax-free Renaissance zones; Brownfield programs; Riverfront development as tools to renew the cities urban core
· Put more police on streets
· Provide small business loans
· Transition with economic shift from manufacturing industrial to high tech global companies
· Continue to offer an overall economic development-friendly climate
• Cut regulations to invite business
• Most important goal is to corporate with country-wide crime prevention planning to make our streets safe

For more information on Saginaw call:

City Hall: 517-759-1400

Fax: 517-759-1607

Pontiac

Mayor Walter Moore

State of the City Report

February 10, 1999

1998 Highlights

Police

· Crime rate has continued to drop for the 4th straight year

· Added 18 new police officers

· Police Department has developed a new cable program called Frontline

· Through Community Policing efforts the Citizens Academy was formed

Revenue Enhancement

· Made significant progress in increasing city revenue

· Formulated an aggressive plan that brought current outstanding water and sewer debts and stabilized those funds
· First City in Oakland County to establish a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority as a tool to identify and develop environmentally distressed properties

**Economic Development**

· Two local sites chosen in GM consolidation of worldwide operation

· To date, 86% of residential dwellings were reassessed

· The Family Independence Agency has consolidated its offices in a new building located on Baldwin on the north end of our City

· Contract Compliance Office has identified job opportunities throughout this community and has been very successful in placing city residents into jobs

· The Greater Pontiac Area Consortium provides training opportunities for the entire county.

· JobLinks Service Center has facility where an individual looking for training or employment can walk in and obtain assistance

**Housing**

· Non-profits are a key part of this community, providing homes for people who would not have been eligible to purchase homes through traditional means

· Housing Commission received another half million dollars for a drug elimination grant

· Reorganized the staff of the Pontiac Housing Commission

· HUD has designated Woodland Heights as housing for senior citizens

· Our Public Housing residents elected their own tenant councils and revised their resident by-laws
· Community Development Department condemned almost 500 homes, conducted over 250 team inspections and issued over 15,000 permits in 1998

· Tag & Drag program removed illegal and abandoned vehicles

· Take Pride campaign has been very successful in the Free Landfill Days—saving our city over $150,000 dollars

Youth Partnership

· Formed the Pontiac Schools Community Collaborative to assist in providing support for the Pontiac schools

· Lenwood Compton served as mayor for the day and was selected to receive a $10,000 scholarship from the United Negro College Fund

· Our Youth Advisory Council was established last year and immediately launched projects which brought positive responses from our youth

· Developed a cable program "4 Youth By Youth"

· $2.5 Million grant for four Pontiac based agencies will provide funds for transitional and permanent housing

· OLHSA has also been awarded a $350,000 Youthbuild Grant to assist low income Pontiac Youth between the ages of 18 and 24 to complete their G.E.D. and provide construction job training

Other

· Fire Department has an excellent Technical Rescue Team
· The City of Pontiac has a deferred development agreement for the parking area located next to the Phoenix Plaza

· Added 5,400 new books and resource materials to our library

1999 Goals

- The remaining 14% of residential dwellings will be assessed this year
- The assessment of commercial and industrial properties will begin this year
- We will break ground on our third Marriott Hotel
- This year we will be improving Auburn Road from Martin Luther King to Opdyke, as well as beginning the South Saginaw Street Enhancement project. The M-59 grade separation should be completed by the end of next year
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has identified the USF Holland Trucking Company as its first Brownfield Project
- Work to improve the streets, sidewalks, light fixtures and planters in our downtown
- Reopen the Strand Theatre
- We are projecting that by the year 2000 we will have nearly 900 new homes consisting of single family and multi-family housing
- Moving to guarantee that every public housing development or unit is safe, decent and sanitary
- Lakeside Homes must be demolished because of renovation costs
- Establish a self-sufficiency program which will assist our residents in the Public Housing units to become self-sufficient
- Clear our city of all debris including the removal of all abandoned vehicles in our community
- Work to improve the relationship between all the branches of government
- Settle outstanding labor contract
- We will do everything in our power to be ready for the year 2000—(Y2K)
• The Census—we put together a complete count committee to insure that every resident and every person in Pontiac is counted
• Do Landfill planning for next year
• $200,000 dollars in contributions from the hospitals will be used for a staff person for this Health Initiative
• Over the next few years we will work with the city council to develop a plan to address the old and aging city owned buildings
• Renegotiated cable contract with Comcast
• Bring Arts, Beats and Eats (Festival) back to Pontiac

For more information on Pontiac call:

City Hall: 248-857-7614
Fax: 248-338-7680

Detroit

Mayor Dennis Archer

State of the City Report

February 15, 1999

1998 Accomplishments

Police

· Police department has moved from 6 drug raids per day to 22

· More than 60 percent of Detroit’s police officers were African American

Public Services
We completed a four-year, $11 million program to replace playground and other recreation equipment at 33 parks in the city.

Finished the bulk of our 18-month, $17 million Public Lighting conversion project—the replacement of lamps and connection to a new power source for more than 40,000 residential streetlights.

Worked to fix our streets—we repave more than 100 miles each year and fill more than 1 million piles.

We launched a new Citizen Code Enforcement Program and the response to our pilot program has been excellent. This program empowers residents to report code violation.

**Housing**

We received formal approval from HUD for a $60 million loan to tear down all of Detroit’s worst abandoned houses.

Since late 1997, we have demolished nearly 4,300 houses.

Homeownership in the city is increasing. Property values in Detroit rose 16.9 percent in 1998—our biggest increase in 40 years.

Residential building improvement permits soared above 4,000 during fiscal year 1998.

The value of the improvements was $77 million last year, compared to $17 million in fiscal year 1995.

**Fire Department**

New fire trucks were added to the Fire Department last fall and 15 to 20 are due for delivery later this year.

Our Emergency Medical Services division hired 42 new paramedics in 1998, EMS also got new ambulances in December and nine more will be added later this year.
Business Development

· Retailers are returning to our neighborhoods and dozens of residential developments are either under construction, have just been completed or are about to break ground

· Large number of Detroit’s major business openings and expansions involve companies owned by African Americans and other people of color

Other

· Planning is underway for construction of a state-of-the-art, multi-use, public safety facility at Fort, Clark and the Fisher Freeway. It will include a new Fourth Precinct police station, a new Detroit fire station, a Municipal Parking Violations Bureau, 36th District and Juvenile Courts, and offices for Wayne County and State of Michigan law enforcement officials

· Comerica Chief Economist David Littman reports that what he calls the Dependency Ratio of the City of Detroit has improved at least 82 percent in the past 5 years. More people are gainfully employed. In fact since 1994, our city’s Employment and Training department has placed 51,956 people in new jobs; 45,156 of them were former welfare recipients

1999 Goals

- Work to improve public safety—be more active in neighborhood watch programs, more supportive of police efforts and continue to upgrade and enhance their crime-fighting technology and enforcement methods
- Goal to reach 31 drug raids per day
- Recruiting heavily to hire 800 new officers
- School changes—I will insist on real change, and real benefits for the children of Detroit. Class size in grades K through 3 should have a teacher student ratio of 1 to 17 with clearly no more than 20 students per class.
- The legislation ought also to provide for the authority and ability to require summer school, substantive after-school programs, technical
training for teachers, community policing, access to technical tools and site-based decision making

- We must attract teachers to our Detroit Public Schools—1,200 certified teachers to fill the current job vacancies
- There needs to be legislative benchmarking that defines in advance what is a successful or a failed school system
- Education reform is an essential part of our road to true excellence
- An accurate Census count is critical
- We will have as a high priority the rehabilitation of abandoned houses to provide homes for lower and moderate income families
- We expect the Michigan Gaming Control Board to approve licenses for the casino developers sometime in the near future. This would clear the way for the opening of three temporary casinos in Detroit in late summer or early fall of this year.
- We will fight all anti-affirmative action initiatives
- Seek city council approval of increase funding for snow removal

For more information on Detroit call:

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