

7:30 p.m. Call to Order.

Invocation:

Pledge of Allegiance: Boy Scouts Troop 244.

Roll Call.

Proclamations:

A. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes.

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2017.
2. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2017.
3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2017.

* B. Approval of Consent Agenda Motions.

* C. Accounts Payable Register:

1. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council approve the Accounts Payable Register of December 5, 2017 as presented.

D. Public Hearings:

E. Petitions and Statements of Citizens:

F. Reports from the Administration:

- * 1. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council approve payment of the annual licensing and software maintenance services fees with BS&A, Incorporated, at a total cost of \$51,806 and authorize the City Manager to execute all related documents.
- * 2. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council:

1. approve one-year contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network for employee health insurance;
2. maintain current employer/employee cost-sharing practices by taking action to exempt the city from requirements of P.A. 152 for the 2018 medical benefits plan year,

and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewals on behalf of the city.

- * 3. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council approve a four-year contract with EyeMed Vision Care as underwritten by Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company for department head/non-union vision insurance, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city.
- * 4. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, beginning at 5:15 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants.
- * 5. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council set a special meeting on Friday, January 12, 2018 at a time and location to be determined for the purpose of conducting the annual City Council Goal Setting Session.
- * 6. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council hold a Committee of the Whole Work Session to discuss a possible Medical Marihuana Ordinance beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 in Council Chambers.
- * 7. Communication from the City Manager regarding the 2017 Portage Community Survey - Information Only.

8. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at Portage City Hall, Council Chambers, for the purpose of considering an emergency ordinance and resolution of intent concerning Medical Marihuana Facilities.
- G. Communications:
- H. Unfinished Business:
 - * 1. Communication from the City Manager regarding the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) "Half-Mile" Liquor License rule in response to comments by Gerry Hoffman at the October 24, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting - Information Only.
- * I. Minutes of Boards and Commissions Meetings:
 1. Portage Public Schools Board of Education Regular Business Meeting of Monday, October 23, 2017.
 2. Portage Public Schools Board of Education Policy Governance Retreat and Committee of the Whole Work Session of Monday, November 13, 2017.
- J. Council Committee Reports:
- K. New Business:
- L. Bid Tabulations:
 - * 1. Communication from the City Manager recommending that City Council:
 1. award a contract to Perceptive Controls, Incorporated, to design, furnish, program, and install program logic controllers and radios for the SCADA system at a not-to-exceed amount of \$567,767 and
 2. approve a budget amendment of \$200,000 from the Sewer Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- M. Other City Matters:
 1. Statements of Citizens.
 2. From City Council and City Manager.
- * 3. Reminder of Meetings:
 - a. Wednesday, December 6, 8:15 a.m., Historic District Commission, City Hall Room No. 2.
 - b. Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m., Park Board, City Hall Room No. 1.
 - c. Thursday, December 7, 6:30 p.m., Human Services Board, City Hall Room No. 1.
 - d. Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m., Planning Commission, Council Chambers.
 - e. Monday, December 11, 6:00 p.m., District Library Board, Portage District Library.
 - f. Monday, December 11, 7:00 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, City Council Chambers.
 - g. Tuesday, December 12, 10:00 a.m., Board of Review, City Hall Room No. 1.
 - h. Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m., Environmental Board, City Hall Room No. 1.
- * N. Materials Transmitted.
 1. Materials Transmitted of November 21, 2017.

Adjournment.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2017

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Strazdas introduced Father Ken Schmidt of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, who gave the invocation, and the City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

OUTGOING COUNCIL:

ROLL CALL: The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Richard Ford, Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette Reid, Terry Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, City Attorney Randall Brown and City Clerk Adam Herringa.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ansari, to approve the November 7, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ford, to approve the November 7, 2017, Special Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Ford, to approve the Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2017, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4 to 0 with Councilmembers Reid and Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Ansari abstaining.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS REPORT: City Manager Larry Shaffer reviewed the Board of Canvassers Report for the November 7, 2017 City General Election. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to receive the Board of Canvassers Report of the final results of the November 7, 2017 City General Election as approved by the Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers as information only. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS REGARDING OUTGOING CITY COUNCIL: State Senator Margaret O'Brien stated her appreciation for Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Strazdas and that their public service did not go unnoticed. Senator O'Brien presented Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Strazdas with a Tribute from the State of Michigan, 94th State Legislature, Governor Rick Snyder, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, State Representative Brandt Iden and herself.

Mr. David Rice, President of the Portage Soccer Club, 4422 Bishop Avenue, expressed his support and congratulations to Mr. Ansari and Mr. Strazdas. Mr. Rice thanked Mayor Strazdas for his staunch and long-standing support of soccer in the community and for being an excellent leader for the City of Portage.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Councilmember Ford thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Strazdas for their history of public service and for their diplomacy. Councilmember Ford complimented Mr. Ansari and Mr. Strazdas for being dedicated and passionate public servants and wished them well in their future endeavors. Councilmember Ford congratulated Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban on their election.

Councilmember Pearson thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for his service and shared that he enjoyed working with him. Mr. Pearson wished Mr. Ansari and his wife all the best. Mr. Pearson congratulated Mayor Strazdas for his tenure as the longest-serving Mayor in the history of Portage. Councilmember Pearson thanked Mayor Strazdas for his devotion to the City of Portage and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

Councilmember Urban complimented Mayor Strazdas and shared that he recalled when Mr. Strazdas was first elected to City Council and that he was glad when Mr. Strazdas was elected Mayor.

Councilmember Urban continued by recognizing Mayor Strazdas as a dedicated public servant and that he appreciated Mayor Strazdas' optimism and steady hand. Mr. Urban then recognized Mayor Pro Tem Ansari on his tours of service on City Council and for his service on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Urban thanked Mr. Ansari for his dedication, positive demeanor and friendly smile.

Councilmember Reid shared that she recalls first meeting Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and that she was impressed by his integrity and determination to hear and understand what citizens were saying. She continued by sharing that this has not changed. She complimented Mr. Ansari for his energy and enthusiasm. Councilmember Reid shared that the Mayor helped her to see the bigger picture and to work to achieve consensus. She thanked Mayor Strazdas for guiding the City of Portage and City Council through difficult issues and that he is deserving of some rest and time off.

Mayor Randall thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for his early support and for going door to door for her when she first ran for City Council and was relatively unknown in the community. She complimented Mr. Ansari on his passion for knocking on doors and for being an excellent colleague on the City Council. She complimented Mr. Ansari on the progress they made together over the past several years and wished him a wonderful retirement and good health.

Mayor Randall thanked Mayor Strazdas for the time he devoted to the City of Portage and in listening to the concerns of residents. Having just been elected, she shared that she has been getting a better idea of the demands of the office and expressed amazement at how well Mayor Strazdas has handled the demands over the past twelve years. She shared her respect for Mayor Strazdas and wished him the best of health and a happy retirement.

City Manager Shaffer expressed deep gratitude for the relationship, friendship, support and guidance offered by Mayor Pro Tem Ansari. Mr. Shaffer thanked Mayor Strazdas for his mentoring, guidance, time spent working through difficult circumstances and for his commitment to taking steps and making decisions based on the best interest of the City of Portage. He complimented the Mayor for his deep commitment to the citizens of Portage and for the work he has done for the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari offered his sincere congratulations to Lori Knapp, Chris Burns, Terry Urban, Claudette Reid and Patricia Randall. With regard to Mr. Urban, Ms. Reid and Ms. Randall, he shared his belief that they have worked well together over the past several years and recognized the work of Councilmembers Pearson and Ford as well. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari stated that he has been honored to serve the public for the last twenty years. Mr. Ansari recognized Mayor Strazdas for being a great leader and for being the type of person that commands respect. Mr. Ansari continued by thanking City Manager Shaffer for his commitment to Portage and thanked city employees for being the key piece of making Portage such a great community. Mr. Ansari recognized his family and thanked them for their support and thanked the community for their overwhelming support over the years. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari concluded by sharing that he was going to travel to a warm and sunny place and that he would be boarding a plane later in the evening.

Mayor Strazdas recognized elected officials in attendance and complimented everyone who ran for office. Mayor Strazdas shared his belief that the City of Portage will be well served by the new City Council. Mayor Strazdas shared how he got involved in public service with the City of Portage and that it was litigation between the City of Portage and the city's largest employer, Upjohn, that prompted him to run for office. Mr. Strazdas also shared that, despite historical animosity, he worked closely with the City of Kalamazoo and other partners to achieve such items as mutual fire aid, regional drug enforcement activities, a regional cable system, joint purchasing, widening of I-94, regional public transit and, most recently, regional 9-1-1 dispatch. Mr. Strazdas shared that it took many people and organizations, not just the Mayor of Portage, working together to make such progress possible. The progress, he continued, was promoted by a level of trust, dialogue and relationships.

Mayor Strazdas continued by stating that, while on City Council, he experienced great economic times along with the Great Recession, worked with three city managers and several councilmembers. Mayor Strazdas shared that he recognized not everyone agreed at all times but that everyone wanted to do the right thing for the City of Portage.

Mayor Strazdas reflected on his 16 years on Portage City Council and highlighted four items which resonated most with him. They included historic and on-going conservative values of the City Council and Administration that held the line on the millage, raised the bond rating, improved infrastructure, improved services and lowered debt.

The next item Mayor Strazdas highlighted was the quality of City staff and their programs. He mentioned the accredited police and fire services and the Senior Center, award winning parks, community development efforts, the Finance Department, exceptional customer service and pointed out that the Community Survey continues to validate the efforts of staff.

The third item highlighted by Mayor Strazdas was economic development efforts in Portage and Southwest Michigan. Economic development, he stated, supports the quality of life that residents enjoy and expect. Mayor Strazdas mentioned in particular the efforts of Stryker, Pfizer, Portage Public Schools and Southwest Michigan First for doing their part to promote success.

Finally, Mayor Strazdas highlighted the importance of focusing on the long-term future of the community. He shared his belief that success is not judged by decisions that impact us today, but on things that impact us 10 to 20 years from now. Mayor Strazdas recognized the efforts of previous City Councils in this regard and shared that, during his tenure, the City held three community visioning forums with hundreds of engaged citizens, worked with Portage Public Schools, created a Youth Advisory Committee, involved youth in the Mayor and City Council for the Day program, the annual I Love Portage essay contest and that he attended over 100 Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies. Mayor Strazdas also highlighted improvements made in road and utility infrastructure, increased public safety and positive financial health. Mayor Strazdas encouraged future City Councils to stay the course.

In conclusion, Mayor Strazdas thanked those who contacted him since his cancer diagnosis and for their thoughts and prayers. He continued by stating that he is going to spend time focusing on important things in his life such as time with family and disclosed that he would be having a date night with his wife every other Tuesday night. He then thanked his family for their support for letting him share his time with the community as a public servant. Mayor Strazdas thanked residents, business owners, staff, councilmembers and community leaders for the opportunity to work with them. Mayor Strazdas shared that he hopes historians will look back and say that the City of Portage got it right during his tenure and wished the next Mayor and City Council all the best.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE OF RETIRING CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting sine die at 8:15 p.m.

NEW COUNCIL:

OATH OF OFFICE AND SEATING OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS: City Clerk Adam Herringa administered the Oath of Office to Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban as Councilmembers and to Patricia M. Randall as Mayor.

SIGNING OF THE CITY COUNCIL CODE OF ETHICS AND VALUES POLICY: The Mayor and Councilmembers signed the Ethics and Values Policy.

SEATING OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS: At the invitation of the City Clerk, the Mayor and City Council took their respective seats at the dais. Mayor Randall called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. and City Clerk Herringa called the roll with the following members present: Councilmember Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Lori Knapp, Jim Pearson, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban and Mayor Patricia Randall. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, City Attorney Randy Brown, and City Clerk Adam Herringa.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE: City Clerk Herringa reviewed the process for selecting the Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor Randall entertained nominations for the position. Councilmember Ford nominated Councilmember Pearson and Councilmember Reid nominated Councilmember Urban. There being no further nominations, motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to close the nominations. Upon a voice vote, motion to close nominations carried unanimously. City Council then completed and signed their respective ballots for Mayor Pro Tem. The City Clerk collected and read the results of the selection. Councilmembers Reid and Urban selected Councilmember Urban. Councilmembers Burns, Ford, Knapp, Pearson and Mayor Randall selected Councilmember Pearson. Councilmember Pearson was selected by a vote of 5 to 2. Mr. Pearson was then seated as Mayor Pro Tem of Portage.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE: Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Rules of Order and Procedure as presented. Councilmember Ford shared that there were items he would like to review in the document but they could be delayed until the City Council retreat. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MAYOR PRO TEM NASIM ANSARI: Mayor Randall issued a Resolution of Respect for Mayor Pro Tem Ansari on behalf of City Council, the City Manager and herself.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MAYOR PETER STRAZDAS: Mayor Randall issued a Resolution of Respect for Mayor Strazdas on behalf of City Council, the City Manager and herself.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Mayor Randall recognized various citizens and officials in the audience and thanked everyone for attending.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS REGARDING OUTGOING CITY COUNCIL: State Senator Margaret O'Brien stated that she served on City Council with Mayor Randall and that it is a privilege and honor to work with her in her new role as Mayor. State Senator O'Brien stated that she is looking forward to working with Councilmember Knapp and Burns and offered herself as a resource. Finally, she congratulated Councilmember Reid and Urban on their reelection and thanked all of City Council for their service.

State Representative Brandt Iden congratulated the newly elected members of City Council for their hard work and thanked Mayor Strazdas for being a mentor and friend. State Representative Iden shared that there are challenges to be faced at the local and state level but that working hand-in-hand we will be able to meet these challenges. He shared that he is looking forward to working with the City Council and that he anticipates great things for the community.

Mr. Jevin Weyenberg, 5817 Cheshire Street, thanked everyone who ran for City Council and for the debates, ideas and discussion inspired by having multiple candidates on the ballot. Mr. Weyenberg shared that he has been a resident of Portage for 17 years and that the community has excellent neighborhoods, parks, roads but that there is always room to get better. He shared his

opinion that a top priority of the City Council should be addressing gaps in the Code of Ordinances and that the City Council focus on the health and wellness of residents of the City of Portage.

Bobby Hopewell, Mayor of the City of Kalamazoo, congratulated the City Council on their hard work and encouraged them to enjoy their office and public service. Mayor Hopewell shared his belief that public service is important and that local government is where the greatest amount of action happens and that he is looking forward to working with the Mayor and City Council for the benefit of the region. Mayor Hopewell congratulated Mayor Randall on her race to be Mayor and shared that serving as Mayor is a tremendous commitment but also tremendously rewarding.

COMMENTS FROM NEW COUNCIL: Councilmember Urban welcomed Lori Knapp and Chris Burns to the City Council and shared that he is looking forward to working with them. Councilmember Urban shared that it is humbling to see your name on the ballot and amazing to have people you don't know, vote for you. Councilmember Urban shared that he is grateful for the privilege and opportunity to continue to serve and recognized his wife and daughters and thanked them for their support.

Councilmember Reid offered her congratulations to Chris Burns and Lori Knapp and offered her support to Mayor Randall in her new role. Councilmember Reid continued by stating that the process of working as a committee is difficult and that it is hard work to get seven people on the same page. She shared her belief that people look at things differently and have different opinions but that there is value in this. Ms. Reid stated that it is important to recognize that everyone has a right to a different opinion and that it takes time for a new City Council to come together as a team. Councilmember Reid concluded by thanking everyone who supported her in the election.

Councilmember Knapp shared that she is thrilled and honored to be sitting at the dais and part of the team that will be helping to lead the City of Portage over the next few years. Ms. Knapp expressed gratitude to her husband, family and friends for their support. Councilmember Knapp thanked the Portage community for putting their trust in her and congratulated Chris Burns, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban on their election, thanked Councilmembers Ford and Pearson for their support, and congratulated Mayor Randall on her election. Ms. Knapp stated that she is proud to be a part of this team and she is looking forward to bringing the energy, experience, skills, passion, commitment, talent and ideas of the City Council together for the betterment of the City of Portage both for today and tomorrow.

Councilmember Burns congratulated and thanked Mayor Strazdas for his service and complimented Mayor Strazdas on his skills as a wedding officiant. Mr. Burns congratulated Mayor Randall on her election, congratulated Councilmembers Reid and Urban on their reelection and on their strong community support, shared that he is looking forward to working with Councilmembers Pearson and Ford, and congratulated Councilmember Knapp on her election. Councilmember Burns stated that he is looking forward to working with the City Council to help create a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous community. Mr. Burns thanked his wife, Lauren, for her support, especially as they became first-time foster parents during the election campaign. Mr. Burns also shared that his family recently lost his wife's grandmother, Joyce Beebe, and thanked Portage voters because Ms. Beebe's last toast was to his election and he was pleased to be able to share that experience with her.

Councilmember Ford thanked the candidates for running positive campaigns, especially Mayor Randall and Mayor Pro Tem Ansari. Mr. Ford pointed out that he was no longer the youngest member of the City Council nor the only attorney. Councilmember Ford again thanked Mayor Strazdas and Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for their service and thanked Mayor Randall for encouraging him to run for office.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson shared that he is honored to serve as the Mayor Pro Tem and welcomes the opportunity to serve in this role under Mayor Randall. Mr. Pearson congratulated Lori Knapp and Chris Burns and commented that, despite the time commitment, it is well worth it be able

to serve the community. Mr. Pearson congratulated Councilmembers Reid and Urban on their reelection. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson congratulated Mayor Randall on her election and shared his belief that she is and will be a great leader and continue to be a force for positive change.

Mayor Randall began by thanking the voters for their support and stated that she is honored and humbled to serve as Mayor and that she is looking forward to helping to bring Portage forward, onward and upward. Mayor Randall then thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the meeting and recognized her husband for his support and also recognized friends and family, some of whom traveled a significant distance, to attend the meeting. Ms. Randall also recognized Father Ken Schmidt for his influence in her life and for being present to give the invocation. Mayor Randall welcomed Lori Knapp and Chris Burns to the City Council, congratulated Claudette Reid and Terry Urban on their reelection, and recognized Councilmember Jim Pearson and Richard Ford for their dedication to enhance city services and promote efficiencies. She stated that she hopes City Council will welcome the addition of Councilmembers Burns and Knapp and be examples of positivity, professionalism and leadership as Portage moves forward. Mayor Randall stated that it is a new day for the City and she is thrilled to be a part of team. She emphasized the importance of integrity and transparency and stated that it is her goal to put citizens first, always. Mayor Randall continued by expressing optimism that the City Council will act with mutual respect, professional decorum and disagree respectfully. She then stated that each member was elected by the people and should be able to pursue those issues that allowed each to be elected. Mayor Randall pledged her support to each Councilmember in their pursuit of concerns and issues and the support of the City Manager, access to information necessary to make informed decision and promised to look for ways to incorporate input, improve city efficiencies, and build on traditions that make meetings more effective and our City a great leader in the region.

ADJOURN FOR A RECEPTION OF NEW COUNCIL: 8:53 p.m.

RECONVENE OF NEW COUNCIL: 9:14 p.m.

- * **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Randall asked Councilmember Ford to read the Consent Agenda. Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.
- * **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of November 21, 2017, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Mr. Alan Loveridge, 23965 88th Avenue, Marcellus, MI, spoke and expressed concern regarding the fire hazard that unattended ovens pose. Mr. Loveridge shared that the technology exists to automatically turn off unattended ovens and encouraged City Council to pass an ordinance requiring that the safety feature, when available, be mandated at places such as apartment complexes and senior living facilities.

Mr. Stephen Ferguson, 3174 66th Avenue, Lawton, MI, congratulated the newly elected officials and highlighted the many environmental attributes of the City of Portage. Mr. Ferguson then shared that there is a local business which is illegally dumping industrial waste into the community and that the Kalamazoo County Department of Health and Community Services and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality are aware of the situation. Mr. Ferguson disclosed that he is a former employee of the company in question but that he is concerned about naming the company due to potential litigation. Mr. Ferguson encouraged employees, managers and businesses to be good environmental stewards. Mayor Randall offered Mr. Ferguson the option of meeting with the City

Manager to discuss his concerns or with Mayor Pro Tem Pearson who serves as chair of the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Advisory Council. Mr. Ferguson elected to speak with Mayor Pro Tem Pearson following the meeting to further discuss his concerns.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION FOR USE OF CREDIT CARDS:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to adopt the amended Resolution for use of Credit Cards to allow the use of a second credit card assigned to the Finance Department, and adopt the "City of Portage Credit Card Use Policy - Finance Department" in accordance with Public Act 266 of 1996. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 417 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

* **OCTOBER ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the October Environmental Activity Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** Council received the minutes of the:

Portage Public Schools Regular of September 25 and Committee of the Whole Work Session of October 9, 2017.

Youth Advisory Committee of October 2, 2017.

Human Services Board of October 5, 2017.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL: City Manager Shaffer shared that he provided a Materials Transmitted to City Council in which he reports that he spoke with Professor David Hartmann, Director of the Kercher Center, which performed the 2017 Community Survey. Mr. Shaffer shared that the results of the survey had been shared with two members of the Community Survey Committee, Councilmembers Reid and Ford, but that the complete results are historically held until the City Council Retreat. Mr. Shaffer relayed that, with a few caveats, Professor Hartmann saw no reason not to release the 2017 results to City Council. City Manager Shaffer stated his recommendation that the results be shared with City Council. Mayor Randall indicated her support of releasing the survey results to City Council and the public as soon as possible.

Mayor Randall stated her desire to call a Committee of the Whole Meeting for Tuesday, November 28th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss medical marihuana. Councilmember Reid indicated that she will be out of town on this day and shared her desire to be able to be present at this meeting. She asked Mayor Randall to find a date and time when all of City Council is available to attend. Mayor Randall asked that City Council send their availability for such a meeting to be held next week to the City Manager. City Manager Shaffer indicated that the meeting will likely be approximately three hours in length. Councilmember Urban expressed difficulty in making the proposed meeting and encouraged Mayor Randall to find a time that works for all Councilmembers. Councilmember Urban inquired why the meeting had to be held the following week and Mayor Randall referenced that December 15th is an important date regarding medical marihuana and that the City of Portage needs to address the medical marihuana issue sooner rather than later. Attorney Brown explained the process by which an ordinance can be enacted and the City Manager shared that City Administration is crafting a schedule for the ordinance including a plan to potentially expedite the process. Councilmember Pearson pointed out that other communities are holding meetings on the topic and expressed support for the City Manager polling City Council to find a good time to meet within the next ten days.

Mayor Randall also asked City Manager Shaffer to poll City Council for their availability to attend a retreat during the second week of January. Mayor Randall stated that she would like to follow a different format for the retreat than in prior years and shared some of her thoughts on the matter.

Mayor Randall asked for a volunteer, in addition to herself and Councilmember Urban, to read and review the "I Love Portage" essays. Councilmember Burns volunteered to assist.

Councilmember Burns wished City Council and staff a good holiday break with friends and family and thanked those in the audience who stayed for the duration of the meeting.

Councilmember Ford stated his excitement at having Council Chambers full of people and expressed hope that more people will attend meetings in the future.

Councilmember Urban wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and urged people to use caution on the roads.

Councilmember Reid wished everyone some quiet and rest over the holiday weekend. She also encouraged residents to drive with care, especially as we experience more wintry weather. Councilmember Reid thanked her husband for his support during the campaign.

Councilmember Knapp wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and shared that she is looking forward to relaxing this week, despite the cooking she is planning on doing. She also encouraged motorists to drive with care.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson added his wishes for a good holiday weekend with family and friends.

Mayor Randall recognized her parents and stated her appreciation for their support and encouragement. Mayor Randall also recognized the support of her in-laws. Mayor Randall shared that she attended Operation Breadlift which was recently held at Portage Northern and Portage Central High Schools. She stated that approximately 270 kids participated at Portage Northern and that all proceeds go to the March of Dimes. Mayor Randall encouraged residents to participate in the Turkey Trot fundraiser at West Middle School and to attend the annual Tree Lighting on December 2nd near the Portage Library and City Hall.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED:

* **MATERIALS TRANSMITTED:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the Departmental Monthly Reports. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk

*Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE
PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017**

Mayor Patricia Randall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Mayor Patricia Randall. Also present were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis, City Attorney Randy Brown, Assistant City Attorney Charles Bear, Director of Community Development Vicki Georgeau, Director of Public Safety Nick Arnold and City Clerk Adam Herringa.

Mayor Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Mayor Randall asked City Manager Shaffer to introduce the discussion topic. Mr. Shaffer explained that City Council would be discussing and reviewing what an ordinance might entail for the various activities authorized under the medical marihuana statute. Mr. Shaffer explained that the meeting would begin with a presentation by Assistant City Attorney Charlie Bear who would highlight the legalities of medical marihuana in Michigan and related challenges and opportunities. Mr. Shaffer then explained that the Director of Community Development, Vicki Georgeau, would talk about a potential ordinance and schedule.

Assistant City Attorney Bear introduced the topic and began by reviewing a history of medical marihuana laws in the State of Michigan. Attorney Bear explained that, despite laws passed at the state or local level, marihuana remains illegal at the federal level. Attorney Bear provided an update as to where the State of Michigan is at with regulations and shared that there are many questions surrounding the situation but few answers. Mr. Bear then reviewed the Public Acts surrounding medical marihuana, highlighted the various types of licenses that are permitted, reviewed the State of Michigan licensing process, and detailed licensing options available to local units of government. Attorney Bear concluded by reviewing potential revenues and costs associated with the medical marihuana program and reviewed ordinance options and possibilities afforded to the City Council.

Director of Community Development Vicki Georgeau shared that City Administration has been working on the medical marihuana issue for more than a year and provided a history of local efforts in this regard. Director Georgeau highlighted the results of the 2017 Community Survey and stated her belief that the results indicate support for the City to take some type of affirmative action as it relates to medical marihuana. Director Georgeau next reviewed issues to be considered when determining what type, how many and where medical marihuana facilities could be licensed. Director Georgeau shared that the City is working on a draft ordinance and shared with City Council some of the factors that City Administration have been taking into consideration such as distances from schools, proximity to each other, size of operations and whether to limit the number of available licenses. Finally, Ms. Georgeau concluded the presentation by reviewing a potential timeline for implementing medical marihuana related ordinances.

City Manager Shaffer explained that this is one of the largest issues to face the City and stated that Administration is proposing a cautious and studious approach to get started. Mr. Shaffer stated that the program can always be expanded but it is difficult, if not impossible, to reign back in. Mr. Shaffer stated that City Administration is supportive of various types of

licenses and highlighted grow operations as an example that fits with the agrarian history of the City. Mr. Shaffer also highlighted the retail and commercial nature of Portage and that he was supportive of retail establishments focused on medical marihuana. Mr. Shaffer then asked City Council for their thoughts and ideas because, he stated, the City only has one chance to get this right.

Mayor Randall thanked Attorney Bear, Ms. Georgeau and Mr. Shaffer for the presentation and stated that City Council first started addressing the medical marihuana issue in 2008 and that, given state deadlines, the City of Portage needs to take action. She commented that, while the City could choose to do nothing, there is no law precluding residents from taking matters into their own hands via a petition drive. She shared her personal thoughts as it relates to marihuana and its medicinal value and her opinion that City efforts in 2008 did not go far enough. Mayor Randall encouraged positive action and expressed interest in hearing from the community in this regard.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that he was in favor of licensing medical marihuana facilities in Portage and expressed support for Portage residents to have access to a quality product. Mr. Pearson asked why the City was recommending only Class A Growers to be licensed. Director Georgeau explained that Administration is looking to be cautious at first and determine where to go next after the City gets experience in regulating the industry. Mr. Pearson then inquired what other industries have distance requirements in the City and Ms. Georgeau shared that day care centers and adult use facilities also have distance requirements. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson expressed his belief that a distance requirement of 1500 feet would unnecessarily limit opportunities. He also stated that he is against a lottery program for issuing licenses and that he would like to see a scoring or merit based system utilized by staff.

Councilmember Urban asked if you could “stack” grow licenses and Attorney Bear stated that, according to a bulletin from the Bureau of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs(LARA), only Class C growers are eligible to have multiple licenses. There was discussion regarding whether the same individual can hold three different licenses and whether such licenses could be co-located on a single site. Councilmember Urban then asked if medical marihuana operations would be a permitted use or a special land use. Attorney Bear explained that it would be a permitted use and shared that there are exemptions from disclosure associated with the medical marihuana licensing process that could prove problematic under a special land use program. Councilmember Urban next inquired about the State of Michigan’s “pre-qualification” for medical marihuana businesses. Director Georgeau explained that the City is proposing a “pre-qualification” requirement and pointed out that a business looking to get licenses in Portage will need to have a location specified when applying to the City. Mr. Urban inquired how the City would be measuring the distance between marihuana facilities, whether it would be “as the crow flies” or street by street. Ms. Georgeau stated that the City was reviewing this but that the maps provided to City Council were “as the crow flies.” Next, Mr. Urban inquired if the City were proposing one overall medical marihuana facility per 10,000 residents or if it was proposing one provisioning center per 10,000 residents. Ms. Georgeau stated that the City is still evaluating whether to recommend a total number of facilities or a total number per license type. Finally, Councilmember Urban stated that, given the location of greenhouses, marihuana grow operations would likely not be permitted at current locations and City Manager Shaffer concurred.

Councilmember Reid stated that there are many ways to permit and possibly limit the

number of medical marihuana facilities. Ms. Reid inquired if the 3% tax on marihuana would be in addition to the 6% sales tax and Director Georgeau concurred. Councilmember Reid expressed concern with the use of 10,000 residents as a factor in determining the number of medical marihuana facilities. Ms. Reid stated her belief that the Community Survey results demonstrate that residents are not at a place of widespread support and understanding of medical marihuana in the community. Councilmember Reid stated her opinion that citizens must be more involved in the process and that we must get the word out and solicit feedback. Ms. Reid highlighted 8 Mile Road in Detroit and its high concentration of medical marihuana shops and expressed hope that the City of Portage will make decisions that prevent a similar occurrence.

Councilmember Ford stated his belief that the medical community has accepted the value of medical marihuana and that the City must be progressive in this regard. Mr. Ford inquired whether a license could be revoked and Attorney Bear replied in the affirmative. Mr. Ford stated his desire to have quality businesses located in Portage and that residents from outside of the City should be able to come to Portage to obtain their medicine and cited pharmacies as an example. Mr. Ford stated his opposition to limiting the number of businesses and that staff can utilize a merit-based program to determine who receives a license. Mr. Ford also expressed his opposition to a 1500 foot distance requirement and asked whether we regulate pharmacies in a similar manner. Mr. Ford then inquired if we limit other types of businesses in Portage and Director of Public Safety Nick Arnold identified liquor licenses. Mr. Ford concluded by stating that having a reasonable distance rule would provide a cap on the number of medical marihuana businesses.

Councilmember Burns stated his belief that the Community Survey shows that residents are interested in supporting medical marihuana in the City. Mr. Burns then commented on the need for a better measure to calculate what the medical marihuana needs are in Portage and shared his belief that current licensing proposals would be insufficient. Mr. Burns inquired how City staff would come up with recommendations as to who would get a license. Director Georgeau stated that it would be a team approach involving multiple departments reviewing applications. She stated that some of the review would be subjective but expressed support for developing more objective criteria. Ms. Georgeau shared that she envisions a time period to accept, a time period to review and a time period for applicants to provide additional information. Ms. Georgeau stated that if there is no cap on the number of licenses, an in-depth selection process would be unnecessary. She continued by identifying approaches that some communities are using to select applicants such as a lottery, first-come, a scoring system, etc. Attorney Bear pointed out that, although licenses could be limited at first, the number could be expanded at any time. Councilmember Burns inquired if testing is required for the marihuana product and Attorney Bear responded in the affirmative. Mr. Burns stated that if the City does not permit testing facilities, those involved in medical marihuana would need to leave the City of Portage in order to get their product tested. Mr. Burns then inquired why the City was not proposing testing and transporting licenses. City Manager Shaffer explained that the City did not recommend transport or testing licenses because of the belief in the need to be cautious with the medical marihuana program and to begin with a narrower focus. Councilmember Burns concluded by asking about the December 15th date and Attorney Bear explained that this is the date at which time LARA will begin taking applications and expanded by stating that he does not anticipate applicants to LARA being "pre-qualified" before late January.

Councilmember Knapp expressed her opposition to a lottery system and that standards be developed to approve an application. She inquired if the City would adopt the same standards as the State of Michigan and Attorney Bear replied in the affirmative and continued by stating that being pre-qualified by the State of Michigan would be a prerequisite to get a license in Portage. Ms. Knapp then inquired if a transporter was necessary if a grower and processor were located in the same facility. Mr. Bear replied in the affirmative.

Councilmember Ford inquired if a variance could be obtained for a medical marihuana operation and Ms. Georgeau responded on the affirmative. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson reiterated his objection to a 1500 foot distance requirement and asked City Administration to prepare maps that showed distances of 500 feet and 1000 feet. Councilmember Urban inquired about the tracking of medical marihuana and criminal penalties should someone be in possession of medical marihuana that was not prescribed to them. Attorney Bear replied that LARA has a tracking system and that accessibility to minors is a focus of LARA.

City Manager Shaffer thanked the community and those in the medical marihuana industry for being available to meet, discuss and answer questions.

Councilmember Reid inquired if it would be easier to monitor fewer large grow operations or several smaller operations. Director of Public Safety Nick Arnold shared that he is of the opinion that the City should be cautious in implementing medical marihuana and cited feedback he has received from colleagues in Detroit and Colorado. Mr. Arnold also pointed out that his department won't be dealing with those establishments that play by the rules. He expressed concerns regarding increased crime, break-ins, robberies, etc. involving medical marihuana establishments along with concerns about increases in instances of driving under the influence and in the safe disposal of medical marihuana.

Mayor Randall next invited public comment. Mr. Ryan Dickerson, 6033 Daniels Street, Kalamazoo, spoke in favor of permitting medical marihuana establishments in the community. Mr. Dickerson expressed opposition to limiting licenses and a preference to allow the Zoning Code to be the limiting factor. Mr. Dickerson shared his belief that state licensing requirements are stringent and will be a limiting factor on the number of individuals permitted to get a license. Mr. Dickerson expressed support for permitting larger grow operations and his belief that appropriate industrial space in the community for grow operations is limited. Finally, he expressed opposition to a lottery system for licenses.

Mr. Jevin Weyenberg, 5817 Cheshire Street, stated his belief that there are hundreds if not thousands of medical marihuana patients in Portage and that there needs to be regulation of the industry enacted by City Council. Mr. Weyenberg stated his belief that it is not fair to patients, providers or the community for medical marihuana to remain unregulated. Mr. Weyenberg also stated his belief that the community supports medical marihuana and cited the 2015 Charter Amendment as evidence. Mr. Weyenberg stated his support of the comments of Mr. Dickerson and that setting square footage requirements on grow operations is ill-advised. Testing and Transport licenses, he stated, should also be available at the outset in Portage. Mr. Weyenberg stated his support for a merit-based licensing process and not a lottery. In conclusion, he stated his belief that the City should enact an ordinance that provides dignified access to medical marihuana in Portage.

Dr. David Crocker, 6092 West B Avenue in Plainwell and proprietor of Michigan Holistic Health, shared his credentials as a medical doctor and expert in the field of medical marihuana. Dr. Crocker disclosed that he has over 870 patients from Portage involved with his Kalamazoo

clinic and that dispensaries provide valuable healthcare when done properly. Dr. Crocker explained that the average patient age is 48 but that this age is rising as more seniors discover the medicinal benefits of marihuana. Providing easy and functional access to medical marihuana, he stated, would be of tremendous benefit to the community. Dr. Crocker then took questions from the audience and City Council.

Mr. Todd Corstange, Corstange Greenhouses, 1714 East Centre, shared that Corstange Greenhouses has been in business for over 45 years. He inquired if the excise tax and license fee would offset administrative costs. City Manager Shaffer stated that he was unsure but skeptical. Any additional funding, he stated, would come from the General Fund but shared that this is no different than many other city programs and efforts. Mr. Corstange expressed strong support for the City of Portage enacting regulations rather than officials in Lansing citing the fact that local government officials live and work in the community and have a vested interest in success. Mr. Corstange shared details of grow operations in Canada and in the value in utilizing quality soil, lighting, water and safe chemicals to grow high quality plants whether the plants be flowers or marihuana. Mr. Corstange detailed how his products are tracked and shared that although the present location of his greenhouse on East Centre may not permit marihuana grow operations, he may engage in consulting or could consider leasing a facility elsewhere. Mayor Randall inquired how long it takes to grow a usable cannabis crop and Mr. Corstange replied that it varies because, like other crops, the plant responds to changes in humidity, soil ph, lighting, water, etc. In response to a question from Councilmember Reid, Mr. Corstange shared that Canada does not have restrictions based on number of plants but on yield.

Andrea Stork, 1515 Dogwood, shared that she was a resident of Portage and did not have a stake in medical marihuana. Ms. Stork pointed out that there were not many residents in the audience and stated her belief that the people in the room were not indicative of the Portage community. She implored City Council to make every effort to involve and solicit feedback from the public in this debate.

Mr. Ken Jonatzke, 8318 Portage Road, thanked City Council for their efforts to date and stated his support for allowing the licensing of medical marihuana facilities in the community. He stated his appreciation for being a caregiver and for the opportunity to treat patients with medical marihuana. Mr. Jonatzke pointed out that Portage is a regional destination and that individuals, when they come to Portage, enhance the local economy.

Mr. John Davis, 100 Pete's Cove, Battle Creek, spoke and stated his belief that a distance of 1500 feet is too great and potentially problematic. Mr. Davis encouraged the City to utilize a waiver period that would allow anyone currently operating the ability to get a license before restrictions take effect. Such a waiver period, he stated, would protect original businesses and limit those who arrive after the program is implemented.

Ms. Joanne Stewart, 8318 Portage Road, stated her belief that Portage is connected by its businesses and that businesses must be allowed to operate. Ms. Stewart also shared her belief that, in the years to come, marihuana will be just like any business in Portage and will grow and change over time. She encouraged City Council to be forward thinkers.

City Clerk Herringa shared that a letter from attorney Denise A. Pollicella, representing Lake Effect, was received in the Office of the City Clerk during the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Mr. Herringa read the letter aloud so that City Council and the balance of the audience could hear what was written.

In response to the letter, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired if both an authorizing

ordinance and a resolution were necessary to allow Lake Effect to continue operations and be eligible to be licensed by LARA. City Attorney Randy Brown replied in the affirmative and shared that such an ordinance would need to be deemed an emergency and that, while it could be adopted at the December 5th Regular Meeting, City Council could hold a special meeting to address the matter. Mr. Brown continued by stating that any authorizing ordinance would be limited in size and scope and not necessarily specific to Lake Effect but more broadly to provisioning centers. Attorney Bear pointed out that the need for the ordinance and resolution is related to a recent bulletin put out by LARA and confirmed that action is necessary. City Manager Shaffer stated that he would have an emergency ordinance on the agenda for the December 5th City Council Meeting along with an accompanying resolution.

Mr. Devin Loker, 1595 West Centre Avenue, questioned whether, in light of the LARA bulletin referenced in the letter read by City Clerk Herringa if a conforming caregiver that currently operates as a home-based business in Portage would be considered a “previous operating facility” and be allowed to continue operations. Attorney Brown indicated that he could not provide a response at this time.

City Manager Shaffer stated that staff is committed to working on this issue and adhering to the proposed schedule and to the desires of City Council on this matter. Mr. Shaffer stated that he is not opposed to modifying current plans to include additional licenses nor to providing City Council with additional information.

Attorney Brown requested that City Council provide a summary of their thoughts related to a proposed ordinance. Councilmember Burns stated that he would like to see all five licenses be made available at the outset and would like to see maps provided that detail potential locations under less stringent distance requirements. In response to a question about the transferability of licenses, Attorney Bear summarized that licenses could be transferred provided there is state and local approval.

Councilmember Ford expressed a desire to reduce the distance requirement between facilities and to let the free market determine the appropriate number of businesses and operations. He stated his understanding that City Administration would like to take a cautious approach, reiterated that the City could suspend the licenses of bad actors and advocated for a thorough permitting process. In conclusion, Councilmember Ford stated his overall support for this endeavor.

Councilmember Knapp stated her support for the comments of Councilmembers Burns and Ford but stated that she is not supportive of a complete free market approach and that she would like to see maps that identify potential facility locations at distances of 500 feet and 1000 feet.

Councilmember Reid shared her belief that the City should initially move forward in a conservative fashion and advocated for authorizing a smaller number of facilities and expand over time. Ms. Reid expressed support for allowing fewer but larger growing and processing operations and shared that she is not in support of letting the market determine how many facilities should be located in Portage. She continued by expressing concern that failing medical marijuana facilities would simply transition to legal marijuana shops if a referendum allowing recreational marijuana use is approved by voters in 2018. Councilmember Reid concluded by stating her opinion that the City should be the controlling entity of market forces, at least in the beginning.

Councilmember Urban stated his agreement with Councilmember Reid with regard to

market forces. Mr. Urban stated that he is opposed to unlimited licenses and expressed support for one or two large grow operations. Mr. Urban continued by stating that he is supportive of a limited number of licenses in general and to make every effort to service residents of Portage and to not become the regional center for medical marihuana. Councilmember Urban concluded by stating his belief that the City should encourage testing facilities as these fit in the community better than growing facilities and cited the science and technology background of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson concurred with Councilmember Urban regarding testing facilities and also indicated his support for allowing transporters to be licensed as well. In addition to allowing all five types of licenses, Mr. Pearson stated that he would like to see all classes of grower licenses permitted. With regard to the number of licenses, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that he would like to see more than a few licenses but not an unlimited number either and suggested that 12 of each type of license be considered. Mr. Pearson expressed support for a 60-day waiver for established businesses and to apply such restrictions as distance requirements thereafter.

Mayor Randall thanked staff, City Council and the audience for being present and for their involvement at the meeting. She expressed support for including testing and transporter licenses in addition to the other three license categories. Mayor Randall expressed concern about how the City would limit access to medical marihuana to only Portage residents. She continued by stating support for allowing all three grower licenses and stated her belief that the overall economic impact of permitting various types of medical marihuana operations in the City would outweigh the costs of administering the program. Mayor Randall stated that she is opposed to the lottery system of issuing licenses and encouraged the public to attend and participate in all City Council Meetings. She concluded by stating that she and City Council are committed to doing what is best for the community.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF DECEMBER 4, 2017**

Mayor Randall called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Patricia Randall was present and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Councilmember Lori Knapp joined via the conference phone line. Councilmembers Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban were absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, City Clerk Adam Herringa and Deputy City Clerk Erica Eklov.

Mayor Randall opened the meeting and inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding items on the proposed agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired, as it relates to Item F.2, if a supermajority is required to exempt the City from the requirements of P.A. 152 and what the cost for the upcoming year would be to the City if City Council approves the exemption. Mr. Shaffer replied that a supermajority is necessary and he would provide the requested information.

Mayor Randall stated that the City stands to save under the proposed vision insurance program (Item F.3) and City Manager Shaffer explained that changes in coverage, such as the number of pairs of eyeglasses permitted, were the reason for the savings. Mayor Randall inquired if laser vision surgery was completely or partially covered.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that he noticed a number of reimbursements for boots in the Accounts Payable Register and if this was a benefit offered to staff such as police and fire. City Manager Shaffer responded in the affirmative.

With regard to Item F.5, Mayor Randall shared that she and the City Manager would be meeting with a potential facilitator on Friday for the City Council Goal Setting Session. Mayor Randall also indicated her desire that the session last between 4 and 6 hours.

Mayor Randall inquired if the suggested Committee of the Whole meeting (Item F. 6) could be canceled if it was deemed to be unnecessary. City Manager Shaffer replied that the meeting would be held as-needed and could be canceled depending on the desire of the Mayor and City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired if City Council could be provided with a proposed line-by-line ordinance and the City Manager stated that the ordinance would be shared. Councilmember Knapp shared her desire to review a draft ordinance as well.

Mayor Randall stated that the item regarding the 2017 Community Survey was information only and inquired if City Council would be discussing the results. City Manager Shaffer stated that City Council could formally discuss the item if it wished, but the survey is a tool to inform discussions that City Council may have in the upcoming weeks and months. Mayor Randall stated that subcommittees are not generally asked for formal interpretation and analysis of the survey and the City Manager shared that a discussion of the survey at the retreat is not anticipated.

With regard to Item H.1, Mayor Randall inquired if the City Manager had spoken with Mr. Gerry Hoffman regarding the "½ Mile Rule." City Manager Shaffer stated that he had not yet gotten back to Mr. Hoffman but would do so regardless of how City Council proceeds at the meeting.

Under New Business, City Manager Shaffer stated that the Emergency Ordinance to allow the continued operation of the medical marijuana dispensary

would be added to the agenda and the related material transmitted to City Council by noon today. City Manager Shaffer informed those present that a minimum of five votes is needed to adopt the emergency ordinance. Mr. Shaffer stated that there is a companion resolution that speaks to the intent of the City to create the ordinances necessary to regulate medical marihuana in the community. Mayor Randall stated her desire that the City ensure it is in compliance with the State as it related to medical marihuana. Mr. Shaffer continued by stating that the proposed emergency ordinance and resolution signals that the City wants to keep a current facility open and that it is planning to adopt regulations of the medical marihuana industry in the near future.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson shared that he received a letter over the weekend regarding a FOIA from radio station WMUK for copies of the City Manager's calendar. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired if the City Manager would update City Council on this matter. Mr. Shaffer stated that the City has not given up the calendar and the sense is that it is not subject to FOIA. However, he shared that he has no objection to giving out his calendar. Mr. Pearson inquired if the City could charge for providing a copy of the weekly calendar. City Clerk Herringa clarified that if a request takes 15 minutes or less to comply, there would be no charge and this would likely be the case in this instance. City Manager Shaffer shared that the only items he would likely refrain from sharing would be personal appointments. Mayor Randall inquired why the City is fighting the disclosure and Mr. Shaffer stated that it was, in part, to remain consistent with the determination made by the City of Kalamazoo which received and denied the same request. Mayor Randall stated that the matter seems relatively minor and Mr. Shaffer confirmed that he would be happy, if it is the wish of City Council, to release the information. Mr. Shaffer also stated that he would also like to consult the City Attorney before taking any action.

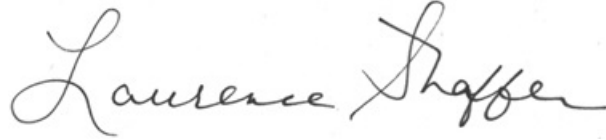
Mayor Randall inquired about the status of a response to a resident who expressed concern regarding guns in such places as schools and churches. She continued by stating that the resident, with whom she and the City Manager met, asked for the item to be included on a City Council agenda. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would contact the resident and speak with him about getting something on the agenda for the December 19th Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:22 a.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Accounts Payable Register

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: William Furry, Director of Finance

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council approve the Accounts Payable Register of December 5, 2017 as presented.

The City Council reviews and approves the bi-weekly Accounts Payable Register which includes automated clearing house payments, paper checks and auto-pay payments. The attached Accounts Payable Register covers the period November 5, 2017 through November 19, 2017 and notes \$612,374.00 in automated clearing house payments, \$924,558.76 in paper checks and \$73,893.62 in auto-pay payments for a grand total of \$1,610,826.38.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments: 1. Accounts Payable Register

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER
Check Dates From 11/5/2017 To: 11/19/2017

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Check Type: ACH Transaction

Check Date	Check	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
11/10/2017	7806(A)	ALL CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.	SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS	3,250.80
11/10/2017	7807(A)	AMERICAN SAFETY & FIRST AID	FIRST AID - DPS	70.62
11/10/2017	7808(A)	BATTERIES PLUS	BATTERIES/CHARGER	83.94
11/10/2017	7809(A)	C D W GOVERNMENT, INC.	FIRE ADMIN SOFTWARE	393.01
11/10/2017	7810(A)	DUST & CAMPBELL, P.C.	MTT CONSULTANT	896.14
11/10/2017	7811(A)	FIRE SERVICE MANAGEMENT	FIRE PPE CLEANING	1,648.06
11/10/2017	7812(A)	GORDON WATER SYSTEMS	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	113.50
11/10/2017	7813(A)	HOWARD PRINTING	PORTAGER PRODUCTION	3,116.00
11/10/2017	7814(A)	INDUSCO SUPPLY CO., INC.	BATHROOM SUPPLIES	431.21
11/10/2017	7815(A)	IRISH AYRES ENTERPRISES, LLC	MOWING/LANDSCAPING	14,448.25
11/10/2017	7816(A)	J & J LAWN SERVICE, INC.	PROPERTY MOWING	5,675.00
11/10/2017	7817(A)	KUSHNER & COMPANY, INC.	COBRA SERVICES	318.64
11/10/2017	7818(A)	LEWIS PAPER PLACE, INC.	PAPER SUPPLIES	164.75
11/10/2017	7819(A)	MATERIALS RESOURCES	FIRE EQUIPMENT MAINT	1,731.04
11/10/2017	7820(A)	MICHIGAN ELECTION RESOURCES, LLC	ABSENTEE BALLOTS	1,864.37
11/10/2017	7821(A)	NEW FRESH CLEANING SERVICE	JANITORIAL SERVICES	65.00
11/10/2017	7822(A)	PEOPLEFACTS, LLC 740303	CREDIT CHECKS	106.48
11/10/2017	7823(A)	R C M HEADSETS/R C M & ASSOC.	HEADSET	107.00
11/10/2017	7824(A)	RIDGE AUTO NAPA	FIRE APPARATUS MAINT	122.74
11/10/2017	7825(A)	RIETH-RILEY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC	ASPHALT MATERIALS	317.05
11/10/2017	7826(A)	S B F ENTERPRISES, INC.	PRINTING AND PROCESS	2,593.80
11/10/2017	7827(A)	SEVERANCE ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC	ELECTRICAL REPAIRS	1,188.70
11/10/2017	7828(A)	SHULTS EQUIPMENT, INC.	UNDERBODY PLOW BLADE	7,731.80
11/10/2017	7829(A)	SIMPLIFILE LLC	DOCUMENT RECORDING	99.00
11/10/2017	7830(A)	VISION SERVICE PLAN (OH)	VISION SERVICE PLAN	2,059.57
11/10/2017	7831(A)	WINGFOOT COMMERCIAL TIRE	FIRE APPARATUS MAINT	2,121.70
11/17/2017	7832(A)	ABONMARCHE CONSULTANTS, INC	ENGINEERING SERVICES	22,274.25
11/17/2017	7833(A)	ACCESS EMPLOYER STAFFING SERVICES	TEMP EMPLOYEES	17,536.61
11/17/2017	7834(A)	AIRGAS GREAT LAKES	PROPANE SUPPLIES	38.87
11/17/2017	7835(A)	AMERICAN SAFETY & FIRST AID	DPS SERVICE	576.97

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER
Check Dates From 11/5/2017 To: 11/19/2017

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Check Date	Check	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
11/17/2017	7836(A)	ANIMAL REMOVAL SERVICE, LLC	ANIMAL REMOVAL	2,535.00
11/17/2017	7837(A)	B L HARROUN & SON INC.	SPRINKLER INSPECTION	322.50
11/17/2017	7838(A)	BLUE CARE NETWORK-GREAT LAKES	INSURANCE SERVICES	121,030.04
11/17/2017	7839(A)	BYHOLT INC.	6A STONE - ELIASON	2,622.06
11/17/2017	7840(A)	C D W GOVERNMENT, INC.	POS EQUIPMENT	3,462.77
11/17/2017	7841(A)	C T S TELECOM, INC.	TELEPHONE SERVICES	2,917.66
11/17/2017	7842(A)	CAPITAL ADVANTAGE LEASING	LEASE OF PRINTER	15,568.20
11/17/2017	7843(A)	CARRIER & GABLE	TRAFFIC SIGNAL CAMERA	4,427.50
11/17/2017	7844(A)	CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	CABLE TV	667.42
11/17/2017	7845(A)	CLEANIT CORP	CAR WASHES	151.99
11/17/2017	7846(A)	CONTINENTAL LINEN SERVICES	TRIP VENDOR PAYMENT	37.08
11/17/2017	7847(A)	DATA CONSTRUCTS LLC	WEBSITE HOSTING SERV	97.95
11/17/2017	7848(A)	DEER CONTRACTING & LANDSCAPE	STUMP REMOVAL	5,440.00
11/17/2017	7849(A)	DELTA DENTAL PLAN OF MICHIGAN	DENTAL INSURANCE	17,438.63
11/17/2017	7850(A)	DIAMOND CONCRETE SAWING	CONCRETE SAWING	861.00
11/17/2017	7851(A)	ENGINEERED PROTECTION SYSTEMS, INC.	FS1 VIDEO AGREEMENT	8,170.31
11/17/2017	7852(A)	ENTENMANN-ROVIN CO.	SENIOR RANGER BADGES	116.50
11/17/2017	7853(A)	ETNA SUPPLY, INC.	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	78.89
11/17/2017	7854(A)	EXTREME POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.	SEASONAL REPAIRS	635.17
11/17/2017	7855(A)	FERRELLGAS, LP	PROPANE FOR LIFT STATION	346.90
11/17/2017	7856(A)	GLOBAL EQUIPMENT CO., INC.	WATER STATION	985.95
11/17/2017	7857(A)	GORDON WATER SYSTEMS	BOTTLED WATER	64.81
11/17/2017	7858(A)	GRIFFIN PEST SOLUTIONS, INC.	FIRE FACILITY MAINT	244.00
11/17/2017	7859(A)	IP CONSULTING, INC.	VOICEMAIL SOFTWARE	70.00
11/17/2017	7860(A)	IRISH AYRES ENTERPRISES, LLC	MOWING AND LANDSCAPE	2,563.00
11/17/2017	7861(A)	J-AD GRAPHICS, INC	TRAVEL AD INSERTS	159.00
11/17/2017	7862(A)	JAROTH, INC	PAY PHONES	288.00
11/17/2017	7863(A)	LAWSON PRODUCTS, INC	BATTERIES	612.01
11/17/2017	7864(A)	MAPLE HILL SPRINKLING, INC.	IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE	2,420.00
11/17/2017	7865(A)	MATERIALS RESOURCES	GLOVES & MISC SUPPLIES	130.40
11/17/2017	7866(A)	MEJEUR ELECTRIC LLC	ELECTRICAL REPAIRS	940.00
11/17/2017	7867(A)	MICHIGAN PAVING & MATERIALS CO.	EAST ROMENCE RD BIKE	77,107.42

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER
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Check Date	Check	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
11/17/2017	7868(A)	NEW FRESH CLEANING SERVICE	JANITORIAL SERVICES	1,752.00
11/17/2017	7869(A)	NORMAN CAMERA CO.	CAMERA	299.00
11/17/2017	7870(A)	PCM SALES, INC.	OPERATING EXPENSES	40,960.00
11/17/2017	7871(A)	PECKELS, CHRISTINE	PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR	300.00
11/17/2017	7872(A)	PERCEPTIVE CONTROLS, INC.	SCADA MAINTENANCE	2,991.58
11/17/2017	7873(A)	PREMIER SAFETY	FIRE SCBA MAINT	42.53
11/17/2017	7874(A)	PROFESSIONAL BUILDING SERVICES LLC	JANITORIAL SERVICES	3,197.54
11/17/2017	7875(A)	R C M HEADSETS/R C M & ASSOC.	HEADSET	133.00
11/17/2017	7876(A)	REPUBLIC SERVICES OF WEST MICHIGAN	WASTE SERVICES	813.08
11/17/2017	7877(A)	RIDGE AUTO NAPA	FIRE APPARATUS MAINT	281.37
11/17/2017	7878(A)	RIETH-RILEY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC	RELEASE RETAINAGE	8,091.59
11/17/2017	7879(A)	ROAD EQUIPMENT PARTS CENTER	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	955.03
11/17/2017	7880(A)	SET ENVIRONMENTAL INC	MPIR POND CLEANING	4,000.00
11/17/2017	7881(A)	SEVERANCE ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC	TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPAIRS	775.00
11/17/2017	7882(A)	SHULTS EQUIPMENT, INC.	UNDERBODY PLOW BLADE	3,454.36
11/17/2017	7883(A)	SNELL, DEBRA	PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR	144.00
11/17/2017	7884(A)	SUEZ WATER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	OPERATING EXPENSES	172,960.08
11/17/2017	7885(A)	THE IRRIGATOR	FIRE FACILITY MAINT	202.50
11/17/2017	7886(A)	TRUCK & TRAILER SPECIALTIES	UNIT 82 REPAIRS	539.85
11/17/2017	7887(A)	W W GRAINGER INC	RANGER UNIFORMS	461.36
11/17/2017	7888(A)	WEST MICHIGAN INT'L LLC	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	107.17
11/17/2017	7889(A)	WIGHTMAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.	ENGINEERING SERVICES	4,945.00
11/17/2017	7890(A)	WINDER POLICE EQUIPMENT, INC.	FIRE APPARATUS MAINT	275.25
11/17/2017	7891(A)	XEROX CORPORATION	COPY MACHINE LEASE	1,035.68
Total ACH Transactions				612,374.00
Check Type: Paper Check				
11/10/2017	304284	ACTION TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE	GUARDRAIL EXTENSION	3,898.00
11/10/2017	304285	ALLEGRA PRINT & IMAGING	ENVELOPES BUSINESS	1,857.69
11/10/2017	304286	BOMMERSCHEIM WINDOW & DOOR LLC	CITY HALL FRONT DOOR	220.00
11/10/2017	304287	BORGESS CORPFIT	2017-2018 HMP SCREEN	2,432.00
11/10/2017	304288	CINTAS CORP.	PANT RENTAL FOR INSP	12.92
11/10/2017	304289	CONSUMERS ENERGY-BILL PMT CNT	STREETLIGHTS	38,115.53

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Check Date	Check	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
11/10/2017	304290	CORNERSTONE OFFICE SYSTEMS	FOLDING MACHINE	641.23
11/10/2017	304291	COSTAR REALTY INFORMATION, INC.	REALTY SALES INFORMATION	321.82
11/10/2017	304292	D L GALLIVAN INC.	COPY MACHINE USAGE	63.80
11/10/2017	304293	EMERGENCY VEHICLE PRODUCTS	FIRE APPARATUS MAINT	75.00
11/10/2017	304294	HALT FIRE, INC.	FIRE APPARATUS MAINT	158.40
11/10/2017	304295	HOME DEPOT	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	438.12
11/10/2017	304296	KALAMAZOO SPORTSWEAR	SWEATSHIRTS/T-SHIRTS	210.75
11/10/2017	304297	KENT COUNTY DPW	WASTE DISPOSAL	90.00
11/10/2017	304298	KNOX CO.	FIRE MARSHAL SUPPLIES	21.00
11/10/2017	304299	MARLOW WHITE UNIFORMS, INC.	DRESS UNIFORMS	2,957.10
11/10/2017	304300	MARXMODA	OFFICE FURNITURE	3,997.13
11/10/2017	304301	MCNALLY ELEVATOR CO.	ELEVATOR MAINT	129.75
11/10/2017	304302	MERRITT MIDWEST INC.	ENGINEERING SERVICES	12,948.75
11/10/2017	304303	MLIVE MEDIA GROUP	CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	931.12
11/10/2017	304304	OFFICE DEPOT, INC.	FIRE OFFICE SUPPLIES	105.66
11/10/2017	304305	RIVERSIDE INTEGRATED SYSTEMS, INC.	FIRE ALARM SERVICE	335.25
11/10/2017	304306	STATE SYSTEMS RADIO, INC	TOWER RENTAL	1,506.48
11/10/2017	304307	STEENSMA LAWN & POWER EQUIPMENT	SMALL EQUIP REPAIRS	251.49
11/10/2017	304308	STUDENT HAULERS	ABATEMENT SERVICES	1,800.00
11/10/2017	304309	TRUGREEN PROCESSING	FALL FERTILIZER	948.60
11/10/2017	304310	VANGUARD FIRE & SUPPLY CO., INC.	FIRE EXTINGUISHER	76.90
11/13/2017	304311	KAMMINGA & ROODVOETS, INC.	FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT	279,048.85
11/16/2017	304381	10TH DISTRICT COURT	BAIL BOND	200.00
11/16/2017	304382	10TH DISTRICT COURT	BAIL BOND	300.00
11/16/2017	304383	A T & T	TELEPHONE SERVICE	1,644.60
11/16/2017	304384	A T & T	CELL PHONE TRACK	125.00
11/16/2017	304385	A T & T LONG DISTANCE	LONG DISTANCE	9.22
11/16/2017	304386	ACTIVE911, INC.	FIRE ACTIVE 911	618.75
11/16/2017	304387	BARUCH SLS, INC	2017 REFUND PER MTT	29,182.25
11/16/2017	304388	BECKER ARENA PRODUCTS, INC.	RUBBER FLOOR MATS	1,463.00
11/16/2017	304389	BEL-AIRE HEATING & AIR CONDITI	CDBG HIMEBAUGH 9951	5,670.00
11/16/2017	304390	BENNY DOAN	FIRE EXCROW RELEASE	12,262.00

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11/16/2017	304391	BEST WAY DISPOSAL, INC.	CURBSIDE RECYCLING	53,098.19
11/16/2017	304392	BORGESS HEALTH ALLIANCE	CLANDESTINE LAB WORK	253.00
11/16/2017	304393	BRONNER'S CHRISTMAS DECORATION	HOLIDAY DECORATIONS	2,038.98
11/16/2017	304394	CARTRIDGE WORLD	PRINTER MAINTENANCE	1,569.34
11/16/2017	304395	CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EXCELLENCE	CFAI WEBINAR 1/2018	800.00
11/16/2017	304396	CINTAS CORP.	UNIFORM RENTAL	141.60
11/16/2017	304397	CITY OF KALAMAZOO TREASURER	SANITARY SEWER CHARGES	57,294.35
11/16/2017	304398	CLASSIC CARRIAGE LLC	HORSE/CARRIAGE TRAD	589.00
11/16/2017	304399	CROOKSTON AUDIO	AUDIO SERVICES	500.00
11/16/2017	304400	DELIA TACTICAL INTERNATIONAL LLC	LRAPTOR G3 RESCUE TOOL	558.00
11/16/2017	304401	EMERGENCY VEHICLE PRODUCTS	POLICE VEHICLE REPAIRS	16,089.61
11/16/2017	304402	GWIN, KENDRA	REIMBURSEMENT	778.98
11/16/2017	304403	HCG PORTAGE II, LLC	2017 REFUND PER MTT	113,902.21
11/16/2017	304404	HOME DEPOT	FIRE FACILITY MAINT	401.58
11/16/2017	304405	IAFCI INTERNATIONAL OFFICE	MEMBERSHIP DUES	70.00
11/16/2017	304406	INT'L FOUNDATION EMP BENEFIT PLANS	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	325.00
11/16/2017	304407	KALAMAZOO COUNTY TREASURER	MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL	19,280.38
11/16/2017	304408	KALAMAZOO FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304409	KALAMAZOO OIL COMPANY	FUEL FOR SMALL EQUIP	321.30
11/16/2017	304410	KITCH DRUTCHAS WAGNER VALITUTTI & S	TOWER NEGOTIATION	360.00
11/16/2017	304411	KUIPER, ROBERT	REIMBURSEMENT	385.00
11/16/2017	304412	KZOO TIRE COMPANY	TIRES AND TIRE REPAIRS	1,176.00
11/16/2017	304413	LEISURE LIVING PROP, LLC	2017 REFUND PER MTT	15,009.41
11/16/2017	304414	LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304415	MALL CITY MECHANICAL	FIRE FACILITY MAINT	361.34
11/16/2017	304416	MCDONALD'S TOWING & RESCUE, INC.	TOWING SERVICES	131.00
11/16/2017	304417	METRO ADVANTAGE TITLE	OVER PAYMENT REFUND	147.84
11/16/2017	304418	MICH MUNICIPAL POLICE & FIRE REPAIR	POLICE VEHICLE REPAIRS	2,947.47
11/16/2017	304419	MICHIGAN SECURITY & LOCK	FIRE FACILITY MAINT	220.00
11/16/2017	304420	MILLER ROAD TRANSFER STATION	WASTE DISPOSAL	38.00
11/16/2017	304421	MKE-SVT	MIC JACK REPAIR	220.00
11/16/2017	304422	MLIVE MEDIA GROUP	EMPLOYMENT AD	220.00

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11/16/2017	304423	MOORE MEDICAL, LLC	FIRE EMS SUPPLIES	1,398.00
11/16/2017	304424	OFFICE DEPOT, INC.	OFFICE SUPPLIES	163.29
11/16/2017	304425	PAPER CENTRAL	COPY PAPER	808.00
11/16/2017	304426	PATHFINDER CHURCH	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304427	POLDERMAN'S FLOWER SHOP	NEW BABY FLOWERS	56.95
11/16/2017	304428	PORTAGE CHAPEL HILL UMC	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304429	PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304430	PROGRESS PROPERTIES, LLC	REFUND PER MTT	2,296.04
11/16/2017	304431	PRUDENTIAL NURSERY	FALL TREE PLANTINGS	2,700.00
11/16/2017	304432	R W LAPINE INC.	HVAC ON-CALL SERVICE	9,987.14
11/16/2017	304433	RATHCO SAFETY SUPPLY, INC.	SIGNS	187.00
11/16/2017	304434	SPRING BROOK SUPPLY	PORTABLE IRRIGATION	5,144.47
11/16/2017	304435	SPRINT PCS	TRACK CELL PHONE	60.00
11/16/2017	304436	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304437	STAP BROS LAWN & LANDSCAPE, INC.	LANDSCAPE BED MAINT	5,951.00
11/16/2017	304438	STATE OF MICHIGAN	SOR FEES	30.00
11/16/2017	304439	STATE SYSTEMS RADIO, INC	MISC RADIO REPAIRS	296.60
11/16/2017	304440	STATE TAX COMMISSION	TRAINING EXPENSE	575.00
11/16/2017	304441	STEENSMA LAWN & POWER EQUIPMENT	POWER STEERING	1,125.00
11/16/2017	304442	STONEGATE MANAGEMENT, INC.	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304443	THE BRIDGE	PRECINCT USE	100.00
11/16/2017	304444	TOWN & COUNTRY ENGINEERING, INC.	ENGINEERING SERVICES	1,920.00
11/16/2017	304445	TRACTOR SUPPLY CORP.	MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	33.92
11/16/2017	304446	US GOLF CARS, INC.	TRAIL SERVICE VEHICLES	22,858.60
11/16/2017	304447	VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC	WIRELESS SERVICE	48.10
11/16/2017	304448	YEO & YEO	AUDIT SERVICES	13,950.00
11/17/2017	304312	ALLEGRA PRINT & IMAGING	TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY	106.00
11/17/2017	304313	ANY CUTTING & WELDING	WELDING SERVICES	120.00
11/17/2017	304314	APCO INTERNATIONAL	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	92.00
11/17/2017	304315	BAINBRIDGE, BRANDON	SHOE ALLOWANCE	105.97
11/17/2017	304316	BEATTY, WESLEY AND MARY	TRIP REFUND	158.00
11/17/2017	304317	BESCO WATER TREATMENT, INC.	WATER SERVICE	20.00

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11/17/2017	304318	BLAIN, DOUGLAS H & LINDA L	BOND REFUND	50.00
11/17/2017	304319	BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	INSURANCE SERVICES	65,026.06
11/17/2017	304320	BRINKER, JOANN	TRIP REFUND	75.00
11/17/2017	304321	BURKE, GREGORY	EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT	4.12
11/17/2017	304322	BYCE & ASSOCIATES, INC.	PRESENTATION PACKS	824.99
11/17/2017	304323	CARLETON EQUIPMENT CO.	REPAIR SUPPLIES	55.73
11/17/2017	304324	CARTRIDGE WORLD	INK CARTRIDGES	57.60
11/17/2017	304325	CITY OF KALAMAZOO TREASURER	UTILITY PAYMENT	919.01
11/17/2017	304326	COLLIER, MICHAEL	SURVEILLANCE TECHNIQUES	446.22
11/17/2017	304327	ED & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURES	TRIP VENDOR PAYMENT	27,216.00
11/17/2017	304328	EDMONSON, EDGAR	SHOE ALLOWANCE	84.25
11/17/2017	304329	ELLIS, DANIEL	SHOE ALLOWANCE	71.11
11/17/2017	304330	EMERGENCY VEHICLE PRODUCTS	POLICE VEHICLE MAINT	1,036.81
11/17/2017	304331	ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH	RENEWAL ARCGIS DESKTOP	1,500.00
11/17/2017	304332	FLUTY, LEWARD	TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY	100.00
11/17/2017	304333	FOUR WINDS CASINO SHUTTLE	PROGRAM PAYMENT	159.00
11/17/2017	304334	HEALY, EDWARD AND BARBARA	TRIP REFUND	138.00
11/17/2017	304335	HEINEMAN, MARK	TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY	150.00
11/17/2017	304336	HILLARD, GRAHAM	HAYLOFT REFUND	150.00
11/17/2017	304337	INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGEMENT ASSOC	MEMBERSHIP	1,084.20
11/17/2017	304338	J & B PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVIC	TREE REMOVALS	19,500.00
11/17/2017	304339	JAKEWAY, CINDY	TRIP REFUND	45.81
11/17/2017	304340	JOHN DEERE CO.	JOHN DEERE GATOR	16,244.59
11/17/2017	304341	JOHNS, STEVEN	SHOE ALLOWANCE	148.39
11/17/2017	304342	KALAMAZOO COUNTY TREASURER	MOBILE HOME TAX	322.50
11/17/2017	304343	KISSINGER, REBECCA	SCHRIER REFUND	100.00
11/17/2017	304344	KLOOSTER, FRAN	BAND EXPENSE	73.60
11/17/2017	304345	LISA GRACE	TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY	150.00
11/17/2017	304346	LOEBIG, ELIZABETH	EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT	151.94
11/17/2017	304347	LOVE, DONNETTE	GRAIN ELV REFUND	100.00
11/17/2017	304348	MARGARET EZELL	PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR	250.00
11/17/2017	304349	MEDILODGE OF PORTAGE	PROGRAM PAYMENT	483.00

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11/17/2017	304350	MICH MUNICIPAL POLICE & FIRE REPAIR	POLICE VEHICLE REPAIRS	448.55
11/17/2017	304351	MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS	2018 MEMBERSHIP	405.00
11/17/2017	304352	MILLER WELDING SUPPLY	WELDER REPAIRS	1,150.71
11/17/2017	304353	MLIVE MEDIA GROUP	BIDS WANTED ADS	41.57
11/17/2017	304354	MOORLAG, TODD	SHOE ALLOWANCE	143.08
11/17/2017	304355	NESBITT, FRED	SHOE ALLOWANCE	150.00
11/17/2017	304356	O'REILLY AUTO PARTS	FLEET MAINTENANCE	287.31
11/17/2017	304357	OFFICE DEPOT, INC.	OFFICE SUPPLIES	298.86
11/17/2017	304358	OWEN, JERRY	SHOE ALLOWANCE	148.39
11/17/2017	304359	PORTAGE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - CHOIR	TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY	100.00
11/17/2017	304360	R W LAPINE INC.	HVAC ON-CALL SERVICE	911.00
11/17/2017	304361	RENEWED EARTH, INC.	LEAF AND BRUSH REMOVAL	9,083.33
11/17/2017	304362	ROOT SPRING SCRAPER CO.	WING PLOW BOLTS	139.00
11/17/2017	304363	RUNIA, KATHERINE	TRIP REFUND	50.00
11/17/2017	304364	SCHOOLCRAFT PAVING INC	BOND REFUND	25.00
11/17/2017	304365	SCOTHORN, WILLIAM AND PATRICIA	TRIP REFUND	120.00
11/17/2017	304366	SHAFER, CRYSTAL	GRAIN ELV REFUND	100.00
11/17/2017	304367	SMITH, JESSICA	EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT	42.60
11/17/2017	304368	STATE SYSTEMS RADIO, INC	HANDHELD RADIOS	3,713.35
11/17/2017	304369	STEVE ROSSIO	TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY	100.00
11/17/2017	304370	TODD ARBANAS ENTERPRISES INC.	STUMP GRINDING SERV	1,750.00
11/17/2017	304371	TRUGREEN PROCESSING	LANDSCAPING SERVICES	190.10
11/17/2017	304372	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	WEEKLY DELIVERY	34.93
11/17/2017	304373	USA TODAY	LOBBY SUBSCRIPTION	29.00
11/17/2017	304374	VANDAM, COREY	SHOE ALLOWANCE	150.00
11/17/2017	304375	VANGUARD FIRE AND SECURITY	BOND REFUND	150.00
11/17/2017	304376	VERIZON WIRELESS SERVICES, LLC	CELLULAR PHONES	2,273.23
11/17/2017	304377	WENDLING-OSBORN, JANE A	TRIP REFUND	69.00
11/17/2017	304378	WRIGHT, JASON	SHOE ALLOWANCE	150.00
11/17/2017	304379	WRIGHT, JOSEPH	SHOE ALLOWANCE	150.00
11/17/2017	304380	WYMAN, THOMAS	SHOE ALLOWANCE	150.00
			Total Paper Checks:	924,558.76

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Check Type: Auto-Pay Payment				
11/7/2017	5693	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	13,384.52
11/9/2017	5710	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	10,002.70
11/13/2017	5726	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	17,924.80
11/14/2017	5739	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	1,819.74
11/15/2017	5748	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	8,892.86
11/15/2017	5723	RANDALL BROWN & ASSOC	RETAINER	18,810.00
11/16/2017	5749	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	497.03
11/17/2017	5754	CONSUMERS ENERGY	GAS-ELECTRIC	2,479.22
11/17/2017	5755	CITY OF PORTAGE	WATER-SEWER	82.75
			Auto-Pay Payments:	73,893.62
			Grand Total:	1,610,826.38

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Annual BS&A Municipal Software Licensing and Maintenance Fees

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: Devin Mackinder, Director of Technology Services

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council approve payment of the annual licensing and software maintenance services fees with BS&A, Incorporated, at a total cost of \$51,806 and authorize the City Manager to execute all related documents.

BS&A is an integrated municipal software system that allows the city to use 18 various applications to perform key business operations that include core financials, loans, cemetery management, utility billing, fixed assets, assessing, planning and zoning, permitting and online payment services.

In 2014, the City of Portage replaced outdated and more expensive municipal software with the BS&A product, providing modern municipal software services and reducing the annual maintenance and licensing fees by approximately \$25,500. The purchase of annual licensing and software maintenance allows the city to continue using the software application and receive the latest updates. Licensing and maintenance service agreements are subject to renewal on a year-to-year basis.

The renewal cost for 2017-2018 of \$51,806 includes an increase of \$2,085 as compared to the previous year due to the addition of a loan tracking function used by the Department of Community Development to administer the Neighborhood Support Program. The new loan tracking function replaces the obsolete and malfunctioning AS400 version, which is no longer supported.

It is recommended that Council approve the annual licensing and maintenance services agreement with BS&A, Incorporated in the amount of \$51,806 and authorize the City Manager to execute all related documents.

FUNDING: Funds are budgeted and available in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Information / Technology operating budget for this purpose.

Attachments: 1. N/A

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Employee Health Insurance - Contract Renewals

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: William Furry, Director of Finance

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council:

1. approve one-year contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network for employee health insurance;
2. maintain current employer/employee cost-sharing practices by taking action to exempt the city from the requirements of P.A. 152 for the 2018 medical benefits plan year,

and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewals on behalf of the city.

Health insurance is provided by the city to all full-time, non-union and union personnel as part of an overall comprehensive benefit package, which is key to attracting and retaining quality employees. City employees currently have the opportunity to enroll in one of two city health insurance plans specific to employee groups, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) Community Blue or Blue Care Network (BCN).

Current health insurance contracts with BCBSM and BCN expire on January 31, 2018. As part of the health insurance contract renewal process for the 2018 plan year, the city was advised of increases in premiums for all BCN plans, as well as decreases in premiums for the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) BCBSM plan and the Department Head and Non-Union BCBSM plans.

Increases to premium (excluding taxes and fees) are as follows:

BCN \$500/0%	Department Head & Non-Union	8.28%
BCN \$500/0%	PPCOA and PPOA	7.12%
BCN \$500/20%	UAW	10.88%

Decreases to premium (excluding taxes and fees) are as follows:

BCBSM Community Blue	IAFF	-2.57%
BCBSM Community Blue \$500/10%	Department Head & Non-Union	-2.48%
BCBSM CB 12/0%	Department Head & Non-Union	-3.51%

The State of Michigan health insurance premium caps for 2018 increased by 3.4%.

Current State Insurance Premium Caps		2018 State Insurance Premium Caps	
Single Coverage	\$6,344.80	Single Coverage	\$6,520.52
2 Person Coverage	\$13,268.93	2 Person Coverage	\$13,720.07
Family Coverage	\$17,304.02	Family Coverage	\$17,892.36

The city offered and the United Auto Workers (UAW) accepted the option to move to the BCN \$500/0% plan in an effort to reduce the impact to employees of the increased premiums received during the renewal process.

In 2013, the State legislature amended Public Act 152 to expand the definition of “medical benefit plan cost” to include the amounts public employers pay directly or indirectly for taxes and fees associated with health insurance. Based upon this action, the costs for taxes and fees would have had to be passed directly to employees. P.A. 152 also provides that an exemption to the requirements of the act can be exercised for the next succeeding year by a two-thirds vote of the City Council. As such, the Council took action in December 2013 to exempt the city from P.A. 152 beginning with the 2014 plan year permitting the city to continue to pay up to the caps for health insurance premiums and pay the costs associated with taxes and fees. With the exception of not passing along the cost of health care related taxes to employees, all other aspects of P.A. 152 continue to be complied with. This same action has been repeated in successive years.

It is recommended that City Council again take action to exempt the city from P.A. 152 for the upcoming plan year and allow the city to pay up to the state caps plus the associated taxes and fees. If approved, this action will simply enable a continuation of current practice in conformance with P.A. 152 as originally enacted in 2011.

FUNDING: Funds have been budgeted and are available to support the cost of employee health insurance coverage for the balance of the current fiscal year. Funds will be budgeted for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Attachments: 1. N/A

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Employee Vision Care - New Contract

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: William Furry, Director of Finance

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council approve a four-year contract with EyeMed Vision Care as underwritten by Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company for department head/non-union vision insurance and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city.

The City of Portage provides vision insurance to all full-time department head/non-union employees as part of the department head/non-union fringe benefit package. Vision benefits include eye exams, frames and lenses.

The city has contracted with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for these benefits since 2008 and the current four-year contract will expire on January 31, 2018. As part of the vision insurance contract renewal process for the 2018 plan year, the city was advised of an increase in premiums. As a result of the increased VSP premiums received during the renewal process, the city took action to solicit bids from additional carriers. Bids were received from EyeMed Vision Care and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan at reduced rates to employees, with EyeMed Vision Care coverage most closely matching the current VSP coverage.

The City Administration was able to negotiate a four-year contract with a 46.41% decrease to premiums with slight changes in coverage. Changes include, but are not limited to, increased copay structure applied to progressive lenses and purchase of second-pair of frames/lenses, increased allowance applied towards contacts, added discounts for items not covered by the plan such as non-prescription sunglasses, and added hearing benefits.

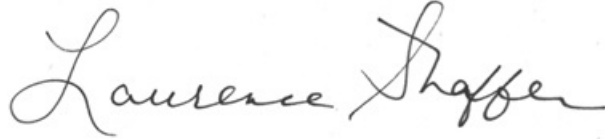
Based upon current enrollment, the total cost of the four-year contract is estimated to be \$52,744.32. Therefore, Council approval of a four-year contract for the period of February 1, 2018 – January 31, 2022 with EyeMed Vision Care as underwritten by Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company is recommended.

FUNDING: Funds have been budgeted and are available to support the cost of employee health insurance coverage for the balance of the current fiscal year. Funds will be budgeted for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Attachments: 1. N/A

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Special Meeting for Board and Commission Applicants

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: Adam Herringa, City Clerk

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, beginning at 5:15 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants.

Section 2 - Article 7 of the Code of Ordinances affirms that City Council recognizes and appreciates the value and importance each Board or Commission plays in advising the Council in its decision-making process. Board and Commission interviews are performed each year in October, January and May.

Per the Policy for Appointments to Citizen Advisory Boards, applicants for the following Boards and Commissions and any other vacancies that arise will be interviewed:

Board of Review	5 Expiring Terms, 1 Vacancy
Environmental Board	2 Vacancies
Public Media Network Board	2 Vacancies
Zoning Board of Appeals	3 Expiring Terms

As reflected on the attached Board and Commission Vacancy Summary, applicants will be interviewed at this time to fill vacancies on the Board of Review, Environmental Board, Public Media Network Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. It is recommended that City Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, beginning at 5:15 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments: 1. Vacancy Summary

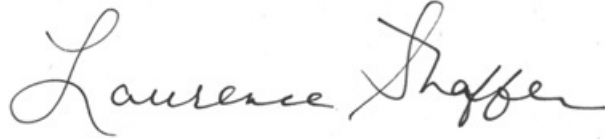
**BOARD/COMMISSION VACANCY SUMMARY
FOR JANUARY 9, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING**

INTERVIEWS	5:30 pm	pm	pm	pm	
APPLICANTS	BD REV	ZBA	ENV	PMN	STATUS
	5 exp terms 1 vacancy 1 yr terms	3 exp terms 3 yr terms	2 vacancies partial terms	2 vacancies partial terms	
Patrick J. Buckley	Member				Appointed 01/12/16
Carol Eddy	Member				Appointed 01/12/16
Linda Finch		Member			Appointed 10/10/17
Justin Gish	Member				Appointed 02/23/15
Bryan Hamilton			Applicant		
Brian Harrison			Applicant		
Keith Hearit	Member				Appointed 01/10/17
Leonard Lamberson	Member				Appointed 01/12/16
Roger Lonoza		N/P	N/P	N/P	
John Lotz			Applicant		
Randall Schau		Member			Appointed 01/06/15
Jeffrey Wettig		Alternate			Appointed 10/10/17

NOTE: **Alternate** – currently serving as an Alternate Member of a Board or Commission and seeking appointment or reappointment
 Member – currently serving as a Member of a Board or Commission and seeking reappointment.
 Applicant – new applicant seeking appointment to a Board or Commission.
 N/P – no preference

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: City Council Goal Setting Session

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: Rob Boulis, Deputy City Manager

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council set a special meeting on Friday, January 12, 2018 at a time and location to be determined for the purpose of conducting the annual City Council Goal Setting Session.

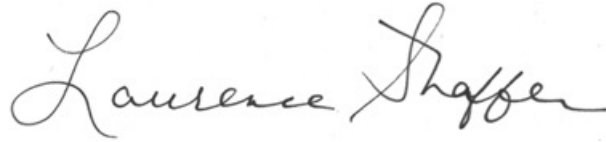
It is recommended that City Council set a special meeting on Friday, January 12, 2018 at a time and location to be determined for the purpose of conducting the annual City Council Goal Setting Session. Further details will be provided to the Council in the near future.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments: 1. N/A

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 19, 2017

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: Adam Herringa, City Clerk

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council hold a Committee of the Whole Work Session to discuss a possible Medical Marihuana Ordinance beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 in Council Chambers.

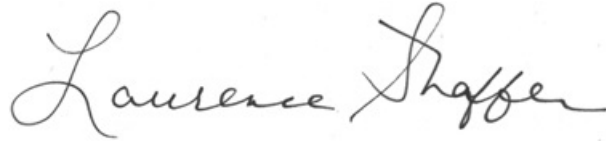
The City Council had planned to hold a Committee of the Whole Work Session to discuss a possible Medical Marihuana Ordinance beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19th. Due to community interest and complexities associated with such an ordinance it is recommended that City Council hold the Committee of the Whole meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19th in Council Chambers.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments:

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: 2017 Portage Community Survey

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: N/A

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information Only

Attached for the information of Council are the results of the 2017 Community Survey conducted by the Kercher Center for Social Research at Western Michigan University. The report will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming City Council Goal Setting Session.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments: 1. 2017 Portage Community Survey

**THE 2017
PORTAGE COMMUNITY SURVEY**

**David J. Hartmann
Ryan P. Castillo
Olivia M. McLaughlin
The Kercher Center for Social Research
Western Michigan University**

November 7, 2017

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Introduction

The 2017 Portage Community Survey is the twenty-seventh citizen survey carried out by the Kercher Center for Social Research for the City of Portage. The survey was administered annually from 1986 until 2009, was next administered in 2011, and has since been conducted after a three year lag. As in previous years, the survey attempts to measure citizens' viewpoints on city services and issues. The first survey, in 1986, was administered through the mail. After that, until 2008, all subsequent surveys utilized a random-digit-dialing telephone approach, as it was faster and generally produced a representative sample. In 2008, the City Council decided to return to a mail approach. Since it proved to be successful, a mail approach was also used for the 2009 through 2014 surveys, and for the current iteration. This year a web based survey was also done so that response quality could be compared with the mail version. The two versions were made as comparable in form and in the procedures used to elicit response as was possible.

As before, the survey instrument was initially drafted by the staff of the City. It was reviewed by a Council committee, the Council, and the KCSR, and ultimately approved by the Council. Most of the survey items were adapted from previous versions of the instrument in order to permit comparisons over time. Some additional items were also included to address citizens' attitudes toward current issues facing the city.

The 2017 survey instrument was reviewed over the summer, and the data collection process began on September 13th with a letter, on City letterhead over the signature of the mayor, to each of the 2000 people in the mail sample. That letter informed them of the nature of the survey and requested their participation. A week later, the survey packets were put in the mail. Each packet contained a cover letter, again on City letterhead and over the mayor's signature, reminding the respondent of the purpose and importance of the survey, plus the survey instrument itself, and a postage paid envelope for return to the Kercher Center at WMU. An invitation to complete the survey online was also mailed at the same time to a separate sample of 2,000 residents.

For the mail survey, data entry and coding began at the end of September, shortly after the first responses were received at the KCSR, and continued through October 25th. A total of 702 completed surveys were received, though only 683 were received and entered by the cut-off date. In addition to the 702 completions, 197 mailings were returned to the City due to bad addresses. This produces a response rate of 38.9 percent. This is consistent with the last four surveys in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2014 which all used the mail protocol followed here. This is a relatively robust response rate for this kind of survey and definitely enhances our confidence in the results. Moreover, response distributions on demographic and substantive indicators have been highly stable from year to year. The web-based response rate was lower with 262 responses and 196 undeliverable invitations for a rate of 14.5%. This is obviously substantially lower than the mail version, though close in comparison to past research in which web-based survey respondents were similarly recruited.¹ The demographic characteristics of responders to the two versions are

¹For an example of research in which web-based survey respondents were recruited via mail, see: Miller, T. I., M. M. Kobayashi, E. Caldwell, S. Thurston, and B. Collett. 2002. "Citizen Surveys on the Web: General Population Surveys of Community Opinion." *Social Science Computer Review* 20(2):124-136.

compared below.

With a 2010 Census count of more than 46,000 for the City of Portage, a random sample of 683 respondents is more than sufficient to represent the adult population of the City with the required 95% level of confidence and sampling error of plus or minus 5% which has always been used for this work (that level of precision actually requires slightly fewer than 400 responses). Frequency distributions have been run for each item on the survey. **Appendix A** contains a copy of the survey instrument with the frequency and percentage distributions for each item for both the mail and online versions. In addition, the responses to open-ended items were sorted by question number, then alphabetized and edited for readability. **Appendix B** contains the responses to the open-ended items with online responses following the mail responses.

Results

Characteristics of the Sample

In survey research, it is necessary to collect demographic information about the sample of respondents in order to determine if the sample is indeed representative of the larger population of interest. This year, it was anticipated that the mail sample would be similar to the 2014 sample, as well as to the target population, given that the data collection approach is the same. The names and addresses were randomly drawn by a sampling company, and the response rate is high, suggesting that the mail approach again worked well. The demographics of the web version are compared to the mail to see if systematic differences obtain.

Although minor variations in the distribution of demographic characteristics invariably occur from year to year, these variations are generally within the confidence bands associated with samples collected using these kinds of systematic approaches. Table 1 presents the results concerning the number of years lived in Portage, the type of residence, and the area of the city where respondents live. These indicators are fairly stable with the vast majority of respondents continuing to be long-time residents who live in single family homes and a strong plurality residing in the northwest quadrant of Portage.

Table 1. Residential Characteristics of the Sample: 2017, 2014, 2011

	2017 %	Web %	2014 %	2011 %
Years Lived in Portage				
Less Than 5 Years	14.4	14.9	6.6	7.9
5 Thru 9 Years	11.1	11.9	8.9	12.1
10 or More Years	74.5	73.2	84.5	80.0
Type of Residence				
Single Family	81.3	84.2	86.2	84.9
Apt/Condo/Mobile/Other	18.6	15.8	13.8	15.1
Area of City				
Northwest	46.6	45.1	43.7	46.6
Northeast	9.8	13.0	10.1	10.9
Southwest	15.5	15.0	17.6	16.0
Southeast	28.1	26.9	28.6	26.5

In a parallel fashion, Table 2 below shows the age, education, family income, and gender distributions for the 2017, 2014, and 2011 surveys. About 59% of the mail respondents report having a college or graduate degree, this is only slightly higher than previous surveys, but fully two-thirds of the web respondents so report. That difference is statistically significant. The

proportion of respondents over the age of 60 is somewhat higher for the mail respondents but the difference is not large enough to be statistically significant. We speculated last time (in 2014), that the mail protocol in general, and increasingly so, is a less attractive protocol for younger residents. This trend is certainly worth monitoring and even though the online distribution was not statistically distinct, it certainly was in the expected direction with more young(er) respondents and fewer older ones. The gender makeup of the mail sample, with 56.4% male and 43.6% female, is similar to previous mail surveys and to the online sample. Finally, the income distribution of the online sample is slightly higher (significantly so in statistical terms) than the mail sample. Overall, the 2017 survey participants continue to be middle-aged or older, highly educated, and relatively affluent. Indeed, the percentage of respondents having a family income of under \$25,000 remained small and stable, and the proportion with incomes over \$100,000 increased somewhat to 33% in the mail sample and 38% in the online sample.

Table 2. Respondent Personal Characteristics: 2017, 2014, 2011

	2017 %	Web %	2014 %	2011 %	Census ¹ %
Age					
Less Than 40 Years	15.9	20.9	5.5	10.0	37.1
40 Thru 59 Years	32.8	34.3	30.3	37.2	37.4
60 or More Years	51.3	44.8	64.2	52.8	25.5
Education*					
High School or Less	9.3	5.4	14.9	15.7	26.6
Some College/Technical	32.2	27.9	30.4	31.5	33.7
College Degree	58.5	66.6	54.7	52.8	39.7
Family Income*					
Less Than \$25,000	10.4	3.4	10.8	12.2	19.7
\$25,000 Thru \$99,999	56.5	58.3	62.9	63.6	58.3
\$100,000 or More	33.1	38.4	26.3	24.2	21.8
Gender					
Male	56.4	58.9	56.6	54.8	47.0
Female	43.6	41.1	43.4	45.2	53.0

¹2010 census for age and gender. Five year estimate (2008-2012) from American Community Survey for education and income.

*Significant differences were found between the 2017 mail and web surveys for education ($p < .10$) and income ($p < .01$).

The vast majority of Portage residents who responded to this survey identified themselves as White/non-Hispanic, though both the mail (91%) and online samples (89%) were lower than in previous years (96.9% in 2014, 94.6% in 2011, 94.4% in 2009, 96.3% in 2008). About 1.5% of the mail sample and 3.2% of the online sample identified as Black or African American (0.9%

in 2014, 1.8% in 2011, 1.4% in 2009, 0.7% in 2008), and 0.8-0.9% as Hispanic.

We no longer asked the “Internet at home” questions in the current iteration since a high availability of high-speed access had been established by 2014 (90.3% of respondents had some access in 2014, while over two-thirds [67.8%] had access through cable). Access to high-speed Internet service in Portage was sufficient to try the online survey this year with the results largely confirming adequate access.

Because the sample is larger and because it is probably more comparable to previous surveys, responses to the mail survey are presented in the text unless it is specifically noted that the response is from the web survey. Of course, web responses are reproduced in the tables and are available in Appendix A.

Citizen Perceptions of Problems

Throughout the survey instrument, the respondents were asked if they felt particular issues were problems in Portage, and if so, whether they perceived the problems to be “slight,” “moderate,” or “severe” (see **Appendix A, Qs 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34**). For each item, point values were assigned to each of the categories (1 for “no problem,” 2 for “slight problem,” 3 for “moderate problem,” and 4 for “severe problem”). The number of respondents who selected the category was multiplied by the appropriate point value, the products were then totaled and divided by the number of respondents. This procedure results in a weighted mean score. In Table 3 below, issues are organized from the most problematic at the top, to the least problematic at the bottom. The rankings are based on the mean scores, which are displayed in parentheses -- the higher the mean score, the more problematic the issue. Finally, the percentages in the table include all responses in the “slight,” “moderate,” and “severe” categories, and therefore represent the cumulative percentage of respondents who felt the issue was some level of problem.

Table 3. Perceived Problems in Portage: 2017, 2014, 2011

Issue	2017		Web		2014		2011	
	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
Traffic-Westnedge	1 (2.09)	68.9	1 (2.04)	71.7	1 (2.05)	69.9	1 (1.99)	67.6
Drinking Water Quality	2 (1.55)	34.4	2 (1.62)	38.6	3 (1.53)	33.7	3 (1.55)	34.2
Home/Yard Conditions	3 (1.37)	26.6	3 (1.46)	31.8	2 (1.58)	44.7	2 (1.64)	48.0
Police Protection	4 (1.19)	13.4	4 (1.19)	13.4	6 (1.15)	11.2	6 (1.18)	13.3
Substance Abuse	5 (1.17)	12.4	5 (1.19)	12.5	4 (1.32)	20.1	4 (1.32)	22.8
Underage Drinking	6 (1.14)	10.1	6 (1.06)	4.6	5 (1.23)	17.8	5 (1.22)	16.7
Fire Protection	7 (1.05)	3.4	7 (1.04)	2.6	7 (1.04)	2.7	7 (1.06)	4.1

The obvious result from Table 3 is that the rankings of the 2017 mean scores largely mirror the rankings for the mean scores for 2011 and 2014. Indeed, the level of concern as reflected by the weighted mean scores, are also remarkably stable and remarkably low. Only

traffic on Westnedge had a mean above 2. The rates of concern over police and fire protection remain, as they have throughout the years, very low. Concern over substance abuse also appears to have dropped somewhat (about 20% listed it as a problem in 2014 but only 12% now).

While the response of “severe problem” is included above in Table 3, it is isolated in Table 4. The dominant result for this part of the analysis continues to be that the proportions of respondents reporting issues as severe problems continue to be small. Traffic flow on South Westnedge took over the top spot in this table, with drinking water quality second and all others far lower. The percentages are small even for the top two problems with less than 10%. As always, the rates for Police and Fire protection show that basically zero percent of residents identify them as a severe. Also, while the South Westnedge traffic flow response of “severe” remains below what it had been years ago, it is a bit higher (7.4% compared to 5.0%) than in 2011 and 2014. The 44% who indicated a problem with streets other than Westnedge (Q. 35) is up a bit from 2014 but comparable to the rate in 2011 (42.5%).

Table 4. Percent Rating as Severe Problem in Portage: 2017, 2014, 2011¹

	2017		Web		2014		2011	
	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
Traffic-Westnedge	1	8.2	3	4.0	2	5.8	1	6.0
Drinking Water Quality	2	6.8	1	6.2	3	2.7	3	4.0
Home/Yard Conditions	3	2.8	2	4.2	1	7.4	2	5.0
Substance Abuse	4	1.1	4	1.2	4	2.0	4	1.3
Police Protection	5	1.1	5	0.9	5	0.4	5	0.7
Fire Protection	6	0.4	7	0.0	6	0.3	6	0.6
Underage Drinking	7	0.3	6	0.6	7	0.0	7	0.4

¹ Issues in Table 4 are organized from most problematic at the top, to least problematic at the bottom (for the current year).

The condition of homes and yards in their neighborhood was perceived to be a severe problem by only about 3% of residents and three quarters of the respondents indicated (**Appendix A**, Q. 31) that the situation is about the same as it was five years ago with another 15% (mail) saying it is better. Also, the percentage reporting that their neighborhood declined in the past five years was lower at 10% (mail) than in 2014 (12.4%), 2011 (17.2%) and 2009 (16.2%).

Table 5 on the following page shows that about half of respondents (47% mail, 50% web) feel there is a deer problem in Portage. Vehicle collisions and property damage were both listed by substantial numbers of respondents and concern about diseases was listed by 16% of the mail respondents.

Table 5. Perceived Problem with Deer Population in City Limits: 2017¹

	Mail		Web	
	%	N	%	N
Feel there is a problem	47.3	293	50.2	122
Concern				
Deer/Vehicle Collisions	41.5	222	43.0	52
Property Damage	35.7	191	35.5	43
Diseases	16.6	89	4.1	5
Other	6.2	33	17.4	21

¹Due to a design error in the web survey that did not allow respondents to “check all that apply” for their concerns with the deer population, the percentage columns for both surveys reflect the proportion of total responses represented by each concern.

Citizen Satisfaction with Services and Programs

This section focuses on the level of satisfaction that Portage residents have expressed with regard to selected city services and programs (see **Appendix A**, Qs 1, 2, 5, and 14-20, 22). In Table 6 - on the next page - rank was again calculated using mean responses. For each item, point values were assigned to each of the five categories (1 for “very satisfied,” 2 for “somewhat satisfied,” 3 for “neutral,” 4 for “somewhat dissatisfied,” and 5 for “very dissatisfied”). The number of respondents who selected the category was again multiplied by the appropriate value, the five products were then totaled and divided by the number of respondents to produce the weighted mean for that item. The lower the mean score, the higher the level of satisfaction.

The first observation about these items is the fact that in most instances a substantial number of respondents had not participated in the program or used the service. This was true especially for the Senior Center, 911 Services, and Service and Recreation Programs with 75%, 73% and 69% not responding respectively. These items are therefore reported in **Appendix A** but not included in Table 6. In addition, the non-response to items dealing with Bikeways/Trailways (29% not responding), and Brush Collection (26% not responding), were also definitely higher than desirable. Such levels, and indeed all of those above even 15 percent, raise a concern about the generalizability of the results. In fact, by that standard, only two of the items, Snow Removal and the Condition of Pavement, received acceptable rates of response.

The top five services are all very closely rated with Curbside Recycling taking the top spot with an average score of 1.20 and with almost 96% choosing either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied.” The sixth rated service was Condition of Parks which still had an average rating of 1.47 and over 90% choosing “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied.” These same six services were in the top six spots in the past two surveys. As we said in 2014 and 2011, there was only minor reshuffling. Also as in previous years, respondent satisfaction with almost all city services and programs is high, so that even those services at or near the bottom - the Condition of Streets and Snow Removal - were regarded as satisfactory by substantial majorities of the respondents. The bottom rated service, the Condition of Streets, actually showed an improved rating since 2014 with the percent satisfied rising from about 58% to about 72%.

Table 6. Satisfaction with City Services and Programs: 2017, 2014, 2011¹

	2017		Web		2014		2011	
	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
Curbside Recycling	1	(1.20) 95.8	1	(1.17) 96.0	1	(1.26) 95.9	2	(1.31) 92.8
Spring Clean Up	2	(1.33) 94.5	2	(1.23) 96.2	2	(1.35) 93.4	4	(1.40) 92.8
Bikeways/Trailways	3	(1.35) 94.4	3	(1.35) 93.8	4	(1.41) 92.3	1	(1.31) 95.1
Brush Collection	4	(1.38) 93.7	4	(1.37) 95.6	6	(1.59) 86.7	6	(1.63) 87.3
Fall Leaf Pickup	5	(1.43) 93.6	5	(1.41) 93.4	5	(1.44) 91.6	5	(1.52) 90.9
Condition of Parks	6	(1.47) 90.4	6	(1.49) 91.7	3	(1.40) 92.6	3	(1.39) 92.2
Snow Removal	7	(1.96) 80.7	7	(2.08) 77.0	7	(2.20) 73.9	7	(2.08) 76.3
Condition of Streets	8	(2.25) 71.8	8	(2.34) 68.3	8	(2.59) 58.3	8	(2.56) 61.7

¹ Issues in Table 6 are organized from the most satisfaction at the top, to the least satisfaction at the bottom for the current year. The ranking is based on the mean response for each issue, which is displayed in parentheses. The percentages who responded either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” are also provided.

As was the case in previous years, a substantial proportion of the respondents in this year’s survey reported that they had direct contact with city employees during the past year (72.9%). Moreover, of those respondents who did report such contact, 61.5% (68.3% web based) reported that they were “very satisfied.” Another 20.5% indicated they were “somewhat satisfied” with the quality of service they received. Those few (2.9% in 2017, 2.8% in 2014, 3.1% in 2011) that were “very dissatisfied” were also asked why they were dissatisfied. These responses are in **Appendix B**, Question 21.

Only about 25% of the respondents indicated that they had utilized services offered at the Portage Senior Center. This figure has been fairly stable since 2009. Of those in the 2017 survey who have used these services, 81.8% reported that they were either “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied.” This is identical to the figure in 2014 and was 89.1% in 2011 and 83.1% in 2009.

Sources of Information about the City

This year as in 2011 and 2014, in addition to items that asked respondents about their sources of information concerning City government, a second set of items was added concerning their preferred sources of information. In each case, the respondents were provided with a list of options and asked to choose all that they use. Since respondents could select multiple responses, the number of responses exceeds the number of cases. Therefore, proportions of both cases and responses are presented in order to explain the results. The figures in the Percent of Responses columns are the proportions of the total responses represented by each information source. The figures in the Percent of Cases columns are the proportions of the respondents that selected each information source. The results are reported below in Table 7.

Table 7. Information Sources about City Government: 2017

	Mail				Web			
	Current		Preferred		Current		Preferred	
	% Responses	% Cases	% Responses	% Cases	% Responses	% Cases	% Responses	% Cases
City Website	11.8	31.5	11.8	26.1	12.9	38.9	10.9	25.6
<i>Portager</i> Newsletter	32.7	87.4	36.4	80.5	31.1	93.9	36.9	86.3
Public Media Network	2.5	6.6	1.9	4.3	3.0	9.2	1.8	4.2
City Employees	2.0	5.5	1.5	3.2	2.8	8.4	2.3	5.3
Kzoo/Portage <i>Gazette</i>	13.0	34.7	12.5	27.6	10.6	32.1	9.6	22.5
Online Local News	12.3	32.8	10.7	23.8	15.2	45.8	14.0	32.8
Local TV/Radio	17.6	47.1	17.3	38.3	15.3	46.2	14.5	34.0
Social Media	6.3	16.8	6.3	13.9	7.8	23.7	8.8	20.6
Other	1.1	3.0	0.9	1.9	1.0	3.1	1.1	2.7
None	0.6	1.6	0.7	1.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total	100%	-	100%	-	100%	-	100%	-

In 2014, only the *Portager*, the *Gazette*, and local TV/Radio received over 10% of responses and were classed as the major sources of information. While they are still the top three, the City Website, and Social Media now also had over 10% with 31.5% on current usage for the former and 16.8% for the latter. As was true last time, it is clear that many respondents have multiple sources of information, and that more than 80% of them selected the *Portager*.

The respondents were also asked how important *The Portager* and the City website are as sources of information about what is going on in Portage city government. Regarding *The Portager*, the results are virtually identical to those from 2014, 2011, 2009 and 2008, and with Table 7. This year, nearly all of the respondents (94.5%) indicated it was either “very important” or “somewhat important,” and only 5.5% indicated that *The Portager* was “not important.” These results are almost identical to 2014 and comparable to those of previous years. The proportions indicating either “very important” or “somewhat important” were – 94.7% in 2014, 93.4% in 2011, 95.1% in 2009, and 93.7% in 2008.

With respect to the item regarding the importance of the City website as a source of information, a substantial proportion of the respondents were unable to respond - 29% compared to 35% in 2014 (but only 13% for the web survey). This represents a substantial drop from ten years ago (48.6% in 2007). As was the case in 2014 and before, those that were able to respond to the item were largely positive. This year, 84.6% of the respondents indicated that it was “very important” or “somewhat important” compared to 78.3% in 2014 and 75.1% in 2011.

Culture and Environment

In the last several surveys, respondents were asked to evaluate the city’s efforts with respect to making arts and entertainment opportunities available (see Q. 8 – **Appendix A**). The respondents could indicate that the city was doing “too much,” “just enough,” or “too little.” Table 8 below displays the results and, while the differences are small, an interesting shift that started last time (in 2014) continued. Again, there was an increasing plurality (now more than 5:1) indicating that “too little” rather than “too much” was being done (of course, the overwhelmingly more popular response remained “just enough”).

Table 8. Ratings of City Efforts on Key Issues: 2017, 2014, 2011¹

Making Arts/Entertainment Opportunities Available	Too Much		Just Enough		Too Little	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
2017	4.6	26	69.5	389	25.9	145
Web	5.0	11	64.8	142	30.1	66
2014	4.6	21	79.3	365	16.1	74
2011	9.0	68	81.3	614	9.7	73

¹ In 2011, respondents were asked to rate city efforts in making “cultural” opportunities available.

With regard to issues related to the environment, in 2017 82.3% indicated that they have participated in the weekly Curbside Recycling Program. This is consistent with the surveys since 2008 (for example, the figure was 83.4% in 2014) and substantially higher than the rates obtained before that (73.9% in 2007 and 75.6% in 2006). Similarly, 74.4% (72.4% in 2014) indicated that they had used the curbside brush collection, which is higher than in earlier years (e.g., 61.8% in 2008 and 54.0% in 2007). Along with the previously reported levels of satisfaction, these trends suggest a stable pattern of high use and utility. With respect to household hazardous waste disposal, the rate of use of the disposal center is again stable, though, of course, at a lower level approximating 38% (34% in 2014, 34.5% in 2011, 34.8% in 2009 and up only marginally from 31.9% in 2008).

Table 9 addresses two new sets of questions on medical marihuana. The first set asked about support for dispensaries. About 43% of mail respondents were opposed to licensing dispensaries in Portage, while 39% supported them for the use of Portage residents only and about 18% supported them for the use of all customers without regard to place of residence. The second set shows that 46% of respondents opposed any licensing for growing/processing/testing or transport while 35% supported such operations for the use of Portage residents only and 19% supported such operations in support of wider populations (web responses appear to be slightly more supportive on both sets of questions).

Table 9. Support for Medical Marihuana: 2017

Level of Support	Not at All		For Portage Residents Only		For All Customers	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Dispensaries						
Mail	43.1	269	39.1	244	17.8	111
Web	32.5	78	44.6	107	22.9	55
Growing/Processing/Testing/Transport						
Mail	46.4	288	35.1	218	18.5	115
Web	36.0	86	39.3	94	24.7	59

Perceptions of Governmental Operations

An area of ongoing interest relates to the citizens' perceptions of the ways that governmental operations take place in Portage. Several items focus on this issue. As before, an overwhelming majority (87.5%) felt they were getting good services for their tax dollars (89.4% in 2014, 87.7% in 2011, 85.1% in 2009, 85.4% in 2008).

A new section added in 2014 and continued this year contained questions on "Potential New or Expanded Services." These were not well-specified proposals but rather content areas for possible exploration with the explicit lead-in that specific levels of costs and services have yet to be developed. The first question asked about support for a second household junk collection (Q. 37). About 29% agree or strongly agree that they would support such a proposal with about 53% opposed or strongly opposed and 17% neutral.

The next question (Q. 38) was on support for a new senior center if private money could be secured in addition to public funds. Here about 39% gave a supporting answer, 28% an opposing answer, and 33% were neutral. The third question (Q. 39) asked about support for a new senior center that would also accommodate the needs of non-seniors in the community. About 34% supported, 36% opposed and 30% were neutral. Finally, Q. 40 outlined the current funding formula for nonprofit human services in Portage and asked about increasing the level of support. About 48% supported this, with 27% opposed and 26% neutral.

In another section of the survey, residents were asked about support for three initiatives. The first (Q. 6) concerned the use of public funds to purchase open space from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with the intention of preserving it as part of the Portage Park system. About 73% supported this with 27% opposed (the web responses appear slightly more favorable). Question 7 described that user fees at the Millennium Ice Rink do not offset costs and asked about eliminating public funding; only 32% favored this elimination with 68% opposed. Finally, Question 9 asked about using city resources to support diversity event funding. Appendix A shows that 45.5% supported this initiative, with 54.5% opposed.

Prospects and Problems

In addition to the item asking about services to be reduced (noted above), two other major open-ended questions were included in this year's survey instrument, as they have been in the past. The first asked for the best two features of Portage, and the second asked for the single most important problem facing the City. All of the responses to these two questions are in **Appendix B**, Questions 41 and 42. In addition, in both the mail and web survey, space was provided for respondents to offer any comments, concerns or suggestion to the city. These are also found in **Appendix B**, as Question 51 – Final Comments.

A final note of caution is offered again as it is every year of the survey. That is that one should respect but not over-react to the open-ended responses. First, it is quite common for people to take such opportunities to simply “vent” about a particular issue or matter that is of particular concern to them. This is frequently the origin of the idiosyncratic comments. More importantly, however, the bulk of open-ended responses tend to be at the extremes of opinion – either positive or negative. Relatively few are “middle of the road” in character. Therefore, responses to open-ended questions are seldom representative of the attitudes or opinions of the majority of people. Consequently, while they can be useful as examples or for specific public relations efforts, they should be treated with great caution in the process of making decisions about policy.

Finally, the experiment to gather information from a web survey had mixed success. The response rate was lower but the responses and demographics were similar to the larger (and more expensive) mail survey. It is likely that the protocol used for sake of strict comparability to the mail version, which required asking people to type a URL into their browser, reduced response. A hot link is preferred in web surveys, but because we did not have a strictly comparable email list to work from and compare to the mail list, this method was not employed. A compromise such as asking people to go to the Portage website and click a survey button with a password might yield a higher response.

Appendix A

Research Instrument with Frequency and Percentage Distributions

2017 PORTAGE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Please check the box next to the answer that best represents your opinion or experience. Skip any question you do not want to answer. There is space at the end for comments.

CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

First, we would like to know how you feel about conditions throughout the City of Portage in general.

- | | | | | |
|--|------|-------------|-----|------------|
| 1. How satisfied are you with the condition of city parks? | | Mail | | Web |
| ☐ Very satisfied | 372 | 66.1% | 155 | 64.0% |
| ☐ Somewhat satisfied | 137 | 24.3 | 67 | 27.7 |
| ☐ Neutral | 40 | 7.1 | 12 | 5.0 |
| ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied | 11 | 2.0 | 5 | 2.1 |
| ☐ Very dissatisfied | 3 | 0.5 | 3 | 1.2 |
| ☐ Have not visited/Don't know | [113 | 16.5%] | [20 | 7.6%] |
-
- | | | | | |
|---|------|--------|------|--------|
| 2. If you have participated in any of the recreation programs offered by the city (such as softball leagues, Ramona Park Beach, etc.), how satisfied are you with these programs? | | | | |
| ☐ Very satisfied | 111 | 54.7% | 36 | 41.4% |
| ☐ Somewhat satisfied | 54 | 26.6 | 32 | 36.8 |
| ☐ Neutral | 30 | 14.8 | 14 | 16.1 |
| ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied | 5 | 2.5 | 4 | 4.6 |
| ☐ Very dissatisfied | 3 | 1.5 | 1 | 1.1 |
| ☐ Have not participated/Don't know | [473 | 69.3%] | [170 | 64.9%] |
-
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------|-----|-------|
| 3. Do you feel there is a problem with the deer population within the Portage City limits? | | | | |
| ☐ Yes (go to Question 4) | 293 | 47.2% | 122 | 50.2% |
| ☐ No (skip to Question 5) | 315 | 52.6 | 121 | 49.8 |
| ☐ Don't know | [79 | 11.6%] | [18 | 6.9%] |
-
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-------|---|---|
| 4. If you feel there is a problem with the deer population within the Portage City Limits, which of the following identifies your concerns? (Check all that apply.)* | | | | |
| ☐ Deer / vehicle collisions | 222 | 75.8% | - | - |
| ☐ Damage to private property | 191 | 65.2 | - | - |
| ☐ Diseases hosted and spread by deer | 89 | 30.4 | - | - |
| ☐ Other (See Appendix B) | 33 | 11.3 | - | - |

*Note: distribution of web survey responses are not shown due to a design error that did not permit respondents to "check all that apply" regarding their concerns with the deer population in Portage

5. If you have used any of the city bikeways or trailways within the last year, how satisfied are you with the condition of these facilities?
- | | | | | |
|---|------|--------|-----|--------|
| ☐ Very satisfied | 353 | 73.8% | 159 | 75.4% |
| ☐ Somewhat satisfied | 98 | 20.5 | 39 | 18.5 |
| ☐ Neutral | 18 | 3.8 | 5 | 2.4 |
| ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied | 5 | 1.9 | 7 | 3.3 |
| ☐ Very dissatisfied | 4 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.5 |
| ☐ Have not used/Don't know | [199 | 29.1%] | [49 | 18.7%] |
6. Would you support the use of public funds to purchase open space from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with the intention of preserving it as part of the Portage Parks system?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|
| ☐ Yes | 397 | 72.7% | 174 | 80.2% |
| ☐ No | 149 | 27.3 | 43 | 19.8 |
| ☐ Don't know | [121 | 17.7%] | [45 | 17.2%] |
7. The user fees received at the Ice Rink at Millennium Park do not completely offset the expenses to operate and maintain the rink. Do you think the city should eliminate public funding for the Ice Rink at Millennium Park?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|
| ☐ Yes | 169 | 32.1% | 68 | 31.3% |
| ☐ No | 358 | 67.9 | 149 | 68.7 |
| ☐ Don't know | [143 | 20.9%] | [45 | 17.2%] |
8. Do you feel that the city is doing too much, just enough or too little in making arts and entertainment opportunities available in Portage?
- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|
| ☐ Too much | 26 | 4.6% | 11 | 5.0% |
| ☐ Just enough | 389 | 69.5 | 142 | 64.8 |
| ☐ Too little | 145 | 25.9 | 66 | 30.1 |
| ☐ Don't know | [114 | 16.7%] | [43 | 16.4%] |
9. Would you support the use of city resources to support diversity event funding?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|
| ☐ Yes | 242 | 45.5% | 103 | 49.8% |
| ☐ No | 290 | 54.5 | 104 | 50.2 |
| ☐ Don't know | [132 | 19.3%] | [55 | 21.0%] |
10. If you have city water, is there a problem with the quality of the drinking water?
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| ☐ No, it is not a problem | 405 | 65.6% | 148 | 61.4% |
| ☐ Yes, slight problem | 125 | 20.3 | 51 | 21.2 |
| ☐ Yes, moderate problem | 45 | 7.3 | 27 | 11.2 |
| ☐ Yes, severe problem (See Appendix B) | 42 | 6.8 | 15 | 6.2 |
| ☐ Don't have city water/Don't know | [50 | 7.3%] | [20 | 7.6%] |

11. Have you utilized the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center in the last year?

☐ Yes	246	37.6%	108	42.0%
☐ No	408	62.4	149	58.2
☐ Don't know	[17	2.5%]	[5	1.9%]

HUMAN SERVICES

The Michigan Legislature passed laws to allow for a pharmaceutical model of Medical Marihuana in the State of Michigan. The state will begin issuing licenses for marihuana dispensaries, growing operations, processing facilities, testing facilities and transportation operations at a level approved by the local municipality, beginning December 15, 2017.

12. Would you support having medical marihuana dispensaries in Portage?

☐ No, not at all	269	43.1%	78	32.5%
☐ Yes, at a level adequate to serve City of Portage residents	244	39.1	107	44.6
☐ Yes, at a level adequate to serve City of Portage residents and also customers from other communities	111	17.8	55	22.9
☐ Not sure/Don't know	[49	7.2%]	[22	8.4%]

13. Would you support the growing, processing, testing and transportation of medical marihuana in Portage?

☐ No, not at all	288	46.4%	86	36.0%
☐ Yes, at a level adequate to serve City of Portage residents	218	35.1	94	39.3
☐ Yes, at a level adequate to serve City of Portage residents and also dispensaries in other communities	115	18.5	59	24.7
☐ Not sure/Don't know	[53	7.8%]	[22	8.4%]

14. If you have utilized the services offered at the Portage Senior Center, how satisfied are you with these services?

☐ Very satisfied	95	57.6%	32	50.8%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	40	24.2	15	23.8
☐ Neutral	25	15.2	13	20.6
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	3	1.8	3	4.8
☐ Very dissatisfied	2	1.2	0	0.0
☐ Have not used/Don't know	[510	74.7%]	[197	75.2%]

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Next, we would like to ask you several questions regarding services offered by the City of Portage.

15. If you have utilized the Fall Leaf Pickup Program in the last year, how satisfied are you with the program?

☐ Very satisfied	370	69.2%	147	69.3%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	131	24.5	51	24.1
☐ Neutral	11	2.1	7	3.3
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	17	3.2	6	2.8
☐ Very dissatisfied	6	1.1	1	0.5
☐ Have not participated/Don't know	[139	20.4%]	[50	19.1%]

16. If you have utilized the Spring Cleanup Program (household junk collection) in the last year, how satisfied are you with the program?

☐ Very satisfied	405	77.4%	178	83.6%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	89	17.0	27	12.7
☐ Neutral	12	2.3	4	1.9
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	10	1.9	2	0.9
☐ Very dissatisfied	7	1.3	2	0.9
☐ Have not participated/Don't know	[149	21.8%]	[48	18.3%]

17. If you have utilized the weekly Curbside Recycling Program in the last year, how satisfied are you with the program?

☐ Very satisfied	479	87.1%	199	89.2%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	48	8.7	15	6.7
☐ Neutral	11	2.0	4	1.8
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	7	1.3	4	1.8
☐ Very dissatisfied	5	0.9	1	0.4
☐ Have not participated/Don't know	[121	17.7%]	[39	14.9%]

18. If you have utilized the Curbside Brush Collection Program, how satisfied are you with the program?

☐ Very satisfied	352	71.1%	146	71.9%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	112	22.6	48	23.6
☐ Neutral	19	3.8	2	1.0
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	8	1.6	5	2.5
☐ Very dissatisfied	4	0.8	2	1.0
☐ Have not participated/Don't know	[175	25.6%]	[59	22.5%]

19. How satisfied are you with the street snow removal?

☐ Very satisfied	266	41.0%	91	35.5%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	258	39.8	106	41.4
☐ Neutral	37	5.7	18	7.0
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	63	9.7	30	11.7
☐ Very dissatisfied	25	3.9	11	4.3
☐ Don't know	[21	3.1%]	[5	1.9%]

20. How satisfied are you with the condition of the pavement on roads and streets in Portage?

☐ Very satisfied	165	24.8%	59	22.5%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	313	47.0	120	45.8
☐ Neutral	67	10.1	32	12.2
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	100	15.0	37	14.1
☐ Very dissatisfied	21	3.2	14	5.3
☐ Don't know	[7	1.0%]	[0	0.0%]

21. If you have had any direct contact with Portage city employees over the past year, how satisfied were you with the quality of service received from the employee?

☐ Very satisfied	294	61.5%	110	68.3%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	98	20.5	28	17.4
☐ Neutral	57	11.9	13	8.1
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	15	3.1	5	3.1
☐ Very dissatisfied (See Appendix B)	14	2.9	5	3.1
☐ Have had no contact/Don't know	[185	27.1%]	[100	38.2%]

22. If you have utilized the 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services in Portage, how satisfied were you with the service?

☐ Very satisfied	139	77.7%	45	76.3%
☐ Somewhat satisfied	19	10.6	7	11.9
☐ Neutral	12	6.7	4	6.8
☐ Somewhat dissatisfied	5	2.8	3	5.1
☐ Very dissatisfied	4	2.2	0	0.0
☐ Have not used/Don't know	[497	72.8%]	[201	76.7%]

23. Do you think there is a problem with the level of police protection in Portage?

☐ No, it is not a problem	483	86.6%	187	86.6%
☐ Yes, there is a slight problem	52	9.3	19	8.8
☐ Yes, moderate problem	17	3.0	8	3.7
☐ Yes, severe problem	6	1.1	2	0.9
☐ Don't know	[121	17.7%]	[45	17.2%]

24. Do you think there is a problem with the level of fire protection in Portage?

☐ No, it is not a problem	512	96.6%	190	97.4%
☐ Yes, slight problem	14	2.6	3	1.5
☐ Yes, moderate problem	2	0.4	2	1.0
☐ Yes, severe problem	2	0.4	0	0.0
☐ Don't know	[149	21.8%]	[67	25.6%]

25. Do you think you are getting good services for your city tax dollars?

☐ Yes	513	87.5%	206	86.9%
☐ No (See Appendix B)	73	12.5	31	13.1
☐ Don't know	[89	13.0%]	[25	9.5%]

COMMUNICATIONS

Now we would like to ask you several questions regarding how you obtain information about what is going on in the community. For the following questions, choose the response(s) that best reflect your opinion or experience.

26. How do you *currently* obtain information about what is going on in Portage city government? (Check all that apply.)

☐ City website	213	31.5%	102	38.9%
☐ <i>Portager</i> newsletter	592	87.4	246	93.9
☐ Public Media Network (Cable Access)	45	6.6	24	9.2
☐ Contact with city employees	37	5.5	22	8.4
☐ <i>Kalamazoo Gazette / Portage Gazette</i>	235	34.7	84	32.1
☐ Online local news outlets (e.g., MLive, WWMT)	222	32.8	120	45.8
☐ Local television and / or radio	319	47.1	121	46.2
☐ Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	114	16.8	62	23.7
☐ Other (See Appendix B)	20	3.0	8	3.1
☐ None of the above	[11	1.6%]	[1	0.4%]

27. What is your *preferred* method of obtaining information about what is going on in Portage city government? (Check all that apply.)

☐ City website	177	26.1%	67	25.6%
☐ <i>Portager</i> newsletter	545	80.5	226	86.3
☐ Public Media Network (Cable Access)	29	4.3	11	4.2
☐ Contact with city employees	22	3.2	14	5.3
☐ <i>Kalamazoo Gazette / Portage Gazette</i>	187	27.6	59	22.5
☐ Online local news outlets (e.g., MLive, WWMT)	161	23.8	86	32.8
☐ Local television and / or radio	259	38.3	89	34.0
☐ Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter)	94	13.9	54	20.6
☐ Other (See Appendix B)	13	1.9	7	2.7
☐ None of the above	[11	1.6%]	[0	0.0%]

28. As a source of information about what is going on in Portage city government, how important is the *Portager* newsletter?

☐ Very important	432	67.4%	173	67.1%
☐ Somewhat important	174	27.1	75	29.1
☐ Not important	35	5.5	10	3.9
☐ Don't know	[33	4.8%]	[2	0.8%]

29. As a source of information about what is going on in Portage city government, how important is the City of Portage website?

☐ Very important	210	44.2%	102	44.9%
☐ Somewhat important	192	40.4	102	44.9
☐ Not important	73	15.4	23	10.1
☐ Don't know	[198	29.0%]	[34	13.0%]

NEIGHBORHOODS

We would like to ask you some general questions regarding the condition of your neighborhood. Please choose the response that best reflects your opinion or experience.

30. Is there a problem with the condition of homes and yards in your neighborhood?

☐ No, it is not a problem	491	73.4%	178	68.2%
☐ Yes, slight problem	129	19.3	57	21.8
☐ Yes, moderate problem	30	4.5	15	5.7
☐ Yes, severe problem (See Appendix B)	19	2.8	11	4.2
☐ Don't know	[9	1.3%]	[1	0.4%]

31. Has the condition of your neighborhood changed in the last five years?

☐ It is better than it was	90	15.0%	28	12.1%
☐ It is about the same	450	75.0	172	74.5
☐ It is worse than it was	60	10.0	31	13.4
☐ Don't know	[77	11.3%]	[31	11.8%]

32. Is there a problem with illegal drug use in your neighborhood?

☐ No, it is not a problem	333	87.6%	147	87.5%
☐ Yes, slight problem	33	8.7	12	7.1
☐ Yes, moderate problem	10	2.6	7	4.2
☐ Yes, severe problem	4	1.1	2	1.2
☐ Don't know	[296	43.3%]	[93	35.5%]

33. Is there a problem with underage drinking in your neighborhood?

☐ No, it is not a problem	349	89.9%	166	95.4%
☐ Yes, slight problem	25	6.4	6	3.4
☐ Yes, moderate problem	13	3.4	1	0.6
☐ Yes, severe problem	1	0.3	1	0.6
☐ Don't know	[290	42.5%]	[88	33.6%]

TRANSPORTATION

Now we would like to know about your experience with transportation within the City of Portage.

34. Is there a problem with the flow of traffic on South Westnedge Avenue?

☐ No, it is not a problem	204	31.1%	71	28.3%
☐ Yes, slight problem	241	36.8	109	43.4
☐ Yes, moderate problem	156	23.8	61	24.3
☐ Yes, severe problem	54	8.2	10	4.0
☐ Don't know	[19	2.8%]	[9	3.4%]

35. Is there a problem with the flow of traffic on any Portage streets other than South Westnedge Avenue?

☐ Yes (See Appendix B)	255	43.8%	103	44.4%
☐ No	327	56.2	129	55.6
☐ Don't know	[93	13.6%]	[28	10.7%]

36. Have you used public transportation in Portage (e.g., Metro Transit, County Connect Demand Service)?

☐ Yes	42	6.5%	13	5.3%
☐ No	605	93.5	231	94.7
☐ Don't know	[26	3.8%]	[16	6.1%]

POTENTIAL NEW or EXPANDED SERVICES

The City of Portage is interested in gauging support for the following potential new or expanded services. Although detailed proposals specifying levels of cost and service have yet to be developed, the city would like to obtain a level of citizen interest before proceeding.

37. I would support the addition of a second household junk collection in the fall even if it cost me more in taxes or fees.

☐ Strongly agree	68	11.4%	32	12.6%
☐ Agree	105	17.6	55	21.7
☐ Neutral	102	17.1	46	18.1
☐ Disagree	175	29.3	66	26.0
☐ Strongly disagree	148	24.7	55	21.7
☐ No opinion	[74	10.8%]	[7	2.7%]

38. In addition to funds pledged by private donors, I would support the use of public funds to establish and maintain a new senior center in Portage.

☐ Strongly agree	62	10.6%	37	15.2%
☐ Agree	165	28.3	73	29.9
☐ Neutral	192	32.9	81	33.2
☐ Disagree	106	18.2	32	13.1
☐ Strongly disagree	58	9.9	21	8.6
☐ No opinion	[82	12.0%]	[18	6.9%]

39. I would support the creation of a new senior center that would also accommodate the needs of non-seniors in the community.

☐ Strongly agree	43	7.2%	26	10.4%
☐ Agree	160	26.7	70	28.1
☐ Neutral	179	29.9	74	29.7
☐ Disagree	140	23.4	54	21.7
☐ Strongly disagree	77	12.9	25	10.0
☐ No opinion	[72	10.5%]	[13	5.0%]

40. Nonprofit human services in Portage (e.g., YMCA, Youth Development Center, Portage Community Center) currently receive support in the form of a set proportion of the City budget. That proportion has been set at .55% of the city budget for more than 20 years. I would support increasing the amount given to human service agencies in Portage.

☐ Strongly agree	78	12.6%	39	15.5%
☐ Agree	216	35.0	83	33.1
☐ Neutral	158	25.6	71	28.3
☐ Disagree	102	16.5	37	14.7
☐ Strongly disagree	63	10.2	21	8.4
☐ No opinion	[55	8.1%]	[11	4.2%]

GENERAL OPINION

Please take this opportunity to let us know how you feel about the City of Portage.

41. In general, what do you feel are the best two features of Portage? **(See Appendix B)**
42. Looking at the next ten years, what do you think is the single most important problem facing Portage? **(See Appendix B)**

DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, we would like to know a little more about you. Please answer the following questions honestly and to the best of your knowledge. Remember that all information provided is anonymous and cannot be associated with your identity.

43. About how many years have you lived in Portage?

☐ Less than 1 year	10	1.5%	3	1.1%
☐ 1 to 4 years	87	12.9	36	13.8
☐ 5 to 9 years	75	11.1	31	11.9
☐ 10 or more years	503	74.5	191	73.2
☐ Don't know	[1	0.1%]	[1	0.4%]

44. Are you male or female?

☐ Male	373	56.4%	152	58.9%
☐ Female	288	43.6	106	41.1

45. What is your age, please? Are you...

☐ 29 years or younger	25	3.7%	8	3.1%
☐ 30-39	82	12.2	46	17.8
☐ 40-49	91	13.6	45	17.4
☐ 50-54	55	8.2	18	6.9
☐ 55-59	74	11.0	26	10.0
☐ 60 years or over	344	51.3	116	44.8
☐ Don't know	[1	0.1%]	[1	0.4%]

46. How would you classify your racial or ethnic heritage?

☐ White/non-Hispanic	593	91.1%	224	88.9%
☐ Black/African American	10	1.5	8	3.2
☐ Alaskan Native, American Indian, Eskimo	1	0.2	0	0.0
☐ Asian American or Pacific Islander	6	0.9	6	2.4
☐ Hispanic	6	0.9	2	0.8
☐ International/non-US resident	1	0.2	0	0.0
☐ Multiracial	14	2.2	6	2.4
☐ Other (See Appendix B)	20	3.1	6	2.4
☐ Don't know	[6	0.9%]	[3	1.1%]

47. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

☐ High school or less	62	9.3%	14	5.4%
☐ Some college/technical school	216	32.2	72	27.9
☐ Bachelor's degree	217	32.4	87	33.7
☐ Graduate degree	175	26.1	85	32.9
☐ Don't know	[2	0.3%]	[2	0.8%]

48. Which of the following best describes where you live?

☐ Single-family home	544	81.3%	219	84.2%
☐ Mobile home	7	1.0	0	0.0
☐ Apartment	48	7.2	17	6.5
☐ Condominium	53	7.9	21	8.1
☐ Other (See Appendix B)	17	2.5	3	1.2
☐ Don't know	[0	0.0%]	[1	0.4%]

49. Using Centre Avenue and South Westnedge Avenue as dividing streets, do you live in the northwest, northeast, southwest, or southeast portion of Portage?

☐ Northwest (Near Crossroads Mall)	304	46.6%	114	45.1%
☐ Northeast (Near the airport)	64	9.8	33	13.0
☐ Southwest (Near the state game area)	101	15.5	38	15.0
☐ Southeast (Near the lakes)	183	28.1	68	26.9
☐ Don't know	[8	1.2%]	[7	2.7%]

50. Which of the following categories represents your total family income for the last year before taxes?

☐ Less than \$25,000	60	10.3%	8	3.4%
☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999	110	19.0	40	16.9
☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999	126	21.7	49	20.7
☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999	91	15.7	49	20.7
☐ \$100,000 or more	192	33.3	91	38.4
☐ Don't know	[34	5.0%]	[11	4.2%]

51. Please indicate below any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you may have for the City of Portage. **(See Appendix B)**

That was the last question! Thank you for your time and assistance. Just put the survey in the postage-paid return envelope and drop it in the mail.

Appendix B (Confidential: for Council and Designees only)

**2017 Portage Community Survey (Mail)
Responses to Open-ended Questions**

4. If you feel there is a problem with the deer population within the Portage City Limits, which of the following identifies your concerns? [Other – specify]

Along trails (small dog) safety

Available space to naturally support the population

Concern for the animals

Deer are losing their dwelling

Deer displaced from natural habitat

Deer droppings in yard

Deer in residential areas with high traffic

Deer may attract predators, and some residents may shoot firearms at them

Dissention as part of resolution. Inability of town to directly address issue

Don't want to have to remove a dead deer

Eat plants and flowers

Garden damage

Hack of city council to address

Herds getting too larger so they are not as healthy

I feel there are probably too many deer in the West Lake Preserve and consequently overflowing to neighborhoods

Increasingly difficult for deer to find suitable habitats to raise young.

Leave scat on lawn

No population control

No predators

Not a major problem, but don't like our landscaping eaten

On E Centre Ave between Portage Road and Sprinkle Road after 12:00 AM

Please reduce the population

Please! Cull several hundred!

Quality of life for the deer

Romence, Center, and Lovers Lane area

Seeing deer in busy areas

The deer are like pets and don't fear people.

There's just so many, they need to get out of the city. They have nowhere to go.

They continue to multiply

Too much development is killing their habitat

We live by celery flats and watch the deer and turkeys out our kitchen window. The city of portage has taken all of their natural habitat away from them.

You are taking away the deer's homes causing them to populate portage

10. If you have city water, is there a problem with the quality of the drinking water? [Yes, severe problem – specify]

Alternates between brown and full of chemicals. Needs to be run through a filter before its drinkable.

Calcification, smelly like sewer and chlorine

Calcium build up in hot water heater screens

Cannot drink the water as is! Have to use additional filters or other water. Black mold permeates the system

Chlorine levels equal that of our pool

Deplorable, and is town still paying for waters poor quality?

Fluoride is being added to the city's well water that already contains fluoride. The city is wasting our tax money. Fluoride is a neurotoxin. We are being duped.

Fluoride - look it up

Hard! Taste chlorine. Terrible.

High iron content

I am anti-fluoride and unhappy with taste and odor.

I don't use city water for drinking or cooking

I double filter

I filter all of my water! Chemicals, heavy metal, floride, bleach, prescription drugs

Iron/rust

Iron/rust in water require additional in home filters

It seems very hard

Large amount of calcium build up in water

Lime - terrible

Low water pressure

Our water tests high for magnesium and shower turns black

Rust

Rust, bad city pipes. We pay triple what Kalamazoo pays for worse service.

Smell, color, hardness. Shouldn't have to pay for such poor quality!

Smells

So hard! We now have a softener system. Not everyone can afford one.

Taste is bad. Do not drink it.

Tastes like chemicals

Tastes nasty - like chemicals in water

Tastes terrible

The sediments, rust/iron is heavy. We spend hundreds of dollars per year on filtration.

The standards for quality are not sufficient - I buy bottled water system that is pure

Too much chlorine

Too much iron in water

Very hard

Very high in iron; we use a hot water softener system and a filter pitcher in the kitchen

Very rusty

We have Kalamazoo water that from time to time is very discolored. Why can't we have portage water? We live here!

We have rusty water quite often. Causes problem washing clothes

Yes I still get sick if I drink it or cook with it. I do clean with it.

21. If you have had any direct contact with Portage city employees over the past year, how satisfied were you with the quality of service received from the employee? [Very dissatisfied – specify]

City plow ran over my mailbox on purpose, city very rude and replacement offer was a joke.

Disorganized, city records out of date.

Do not communicate what their next step is going to be

I felt the employee made light of my situation and was rude, also did little to help

I'm not rich enough or live in the right neighborhood so I've been informed my concerns are of no importance

Portage police respond quickly but do not follow up on crimes

Some new hires in the fire department. Road department have not been good to work with.

The city cut a damaged tree on our property and city employees were not helpful, did not follow up, refused to help

The planning development group is totally business unfriendly and the staff is arrogant, cocky, and useless. Especially the director!!

They try to placate only. They are not helpful!

Traffic engineer--rude and unhelpful!

Tried to get left turn light going at Oakland and Shaver by corner shopping mall.

Waiting for the city to fix my front yard like they said they would. From Oct 2016

Was told I was not getting sidewalks and now I have two on my property. Very unhappy I was lied to!

Water department employees are very rude

When I bought I wanted to make the driveway safer, you're answer: I don't care

25. Do you think you are getting good services for your city tax dollars? [No – specify]

Although some services are adequate, they are not premium... but the tax rate is. The amount of tax does not reflect the service.

Although there is money allocated to boulevards that seem to take a lot of maintenance

Business "unfriendly" city, arrogant idiots running the city

City seems to contract work of less than professional organizations. The repaving of our street caused major [illegible] in our driveway as contractor admittedly used wrong equipment as do

sidewalks on our street. Rebuild of filter system last Nov. caused wooded area on Zylman to be flooded until mid-July.

Every project has to grow, become uncontrollable

For the size of the community and services offered, we pay very high taxes. We have considered moving to neighboring communities to lower our taxes. Our main concern is the amount we pay for city water/sewer services.

Have no say in what is built. If we vote it down it's built anyway

I believe our taxes are too high!

I don't use 90% of the services offered

I live in Sterling Oaks. We receive no city services.

I live just outside the city limits so I don't pay taxes

I pay portage taxes no services in my development by portage no street lights, snow removal on streets, no leaf pick up etc.

i wish we had speed bumps or 15 mph speed limit. People drive 40 in a 25 zone and I have given up walking my dogs on my own street, Lakeview Drive

Less services, more taxes. Question should have had different response scales than yes-no-don't know

Living on a private drive. I don't use city programs--question 15-18

Look. I live on private estate and pay tax only on carport and shed but owners pay tax on land. The trucks are out doing pickups all around me. Why can't they at least do 1 leaf and 1 yearly household goods pickup? We are seniors and have to haul away stuff??

Loudness - unsafe - loud lawn mowers, slamming doors, unsafe lockage of apartments, manager condescending, snow removed from sidewalk now too infrequent, no salting, piles of snow and water left everywhere, let neighbors bang on walls with no penalty, manager rude and Uncooperative

Many streets are in poor condition, but sidewalks are going in where no one will actually use them. Also, need proactive enforcement of ordinances (property despair, dogs off leash/barking/not cleaned up after, etc.), and need more emphasis on stopping distracted driving.

More diversity

More towards the schools

My road never gets plowed in the winter. Should have junk pickup twice a year. Water is expensive for the quality.

My summer tax bill is just a killer for me. I am a senior on a small, fixed income

Need more opportunities to drop off brush in Portage

Need street lighting. Can't get our gutter pan at the end of our driveway repaired

No good stores in the mall. Why there are so many banks and credit unions.

Not even close. Basic services are poor at best let alone anything extra

Not seeing the perks. Have to pay for all local services i.e., trash pickup, cut down trees, shovel myself etc...

Our street become flooded w/any heavy rain, happens multiple times per year. Reported nothing done!

Police not stopping at red light, running and speeding

Portage residents are overtaxed.

Property taxes are too high. There's obviously not enough staff for the police department. Facilities are too hard to rent. You've allowed too many banks to take a foothold in Portage.

Property taxes seem to be higher than what I would expect for city this size

Protect neighborhoods!

Removal of snow in the winter

Rent home

Road conditions. Garbage on the side of the roads. Have 2 household junk collections.

Roads bad, snow plows erratic, police never stop speeders

Rusty water has been an annoying problem for years

Services are good, but overpriced. Highest taxes I've ever paid! Too much money is wasted on glamorous educational facilities.

SEV is too high

Sidewalks could be better; snow removal fast and parking on road in winter enforced

Snow removal and rising taxes

Snow removal for cul-de-sac streets is terrible

Snow removal has been poor

Some streets need more why do manhole covers always feel like pot holes? Need to do a much better job of making them the same level as the street. They always seem to sink after a while.

Sometimes the city acts more like an HOA-likes to control +spend \$on wasted "monitoring"

Somewhat. Our taxes are too high for the services we are provided. The city needs to spend at

current tax levels. If and when costs increase we should possibly look at cutting or reducing programs instead of tax increases.

Summer taxes way too high

Taxes are extremely high

Taxes are outrageous!!!

Taxes are too high

Taxes are way too high on our properties. Too high

Taxes keep rising, water bills increasing-- need to lower!

Taxes relative to other areas are very high

Taxes too high

The city is totally corrupt, wastes money like sport. If something is a horrible idea, costs a lot of money, makes no sense, does no good, the city will do it.

The snow removal and road conditions are bad enough I could go on!

Think a more efficient in P/U leaves-leaf vacuum trucks instead of scraping street surfaces.

Too many jobs are not getting done. They have too much going on at once

Too many frou frou beauty projects rather than attention to roads and tress

Too much money is spent repaving road without defects

Too much money put into fire department.

Too often the city council makes decisions based on what they feel is best rather than what people want.

Very disappointed-- no crime statistics available online.

Wasting money on boulevards is a travesty! Increasing cost for maintenance and snow removal. Also short turnouts create a hazard at peak drive times.

Why do I have to pay for services I don't use? Let the people who use them pay for them.

Wish there were more adult recreation programs besides football. Basketball, volleyball, etc. as well as more adult education opportunities.

Would like to see garbage service included by one company instead of multiple trucks

26. How do you *currently* obtain information about what is going on in Portage city government? [Other – specify]

City of Portage app

Family & friends

Friends

Friends

Friends and coworkers

Michigan radio

Mlive - the City of Portage social media is lacking

Monthly calendar of Portage Public Library

Our public library

Portage Senior Center info. contacts

Posted info in libraries

Posters, etc.

Rumor mill

Talk with my neighbors!

Word of mouth from residents

Word of mouth, directly from leaders

27. What is your *preferred* method of obtaining information about what is going on in Portage city government? [Other – specify]

Direct mailings

Email

Family & Friends

Friends and coworkers

Local "magazines"- Spark, Good News

Love to get emails of local events

Neighborhood chat

Neighbors

Would prefer an email

Written notices!

30. Is there a problem with the condition of homes and yards in your neighborhood? [Yes, severe problem – specify]

A few burn leaves in yard. Junk cars are at one of the corner lots.

A house across the street from circle K has too many over grown trees. And it's not enough street lights

Boats, cars, and junk - excessive for number of residents... 3530 Wedgwood (for example)

Homes appear to be abandoned (not maintained), irregular traffic in and out with a variety of vehicles.

House looks unsafe, dilapidated

Junk cars, trash

Junk in yards; un-mowed lawns; looks junky

Junked or unrepared cars in yards

Land with tall grass under power tower; length of trails

Landlord and tenants not caring to upkeep property. Tenant told me "why should I care if the landlord doesn't?"

Milham Meadows leaves trash in hallways and sidewalks and volume is too loud

Neighbor has tons of scrap in backyard

Next door neighbor has several tree limbs which have crossed over the fence, resulting in the dropping of maple leaves and seeds. Several request have been made with no resolve.

People burn all the time, dogs bark, roosters crow, city does nothing

People don't take care of their yards

Platts in Portage are governed by restrictions that ensure a well maintained appearance. Older neighborhoods are allowed to deteriorate because of all the junk sitting around. Yards.

Too many boats and campers parked in front yards

Too many cars are parked in driveways and front lawns.

Unoccupied home (over 5 years) in poor condition

35. Is there a problem with the flow of traffic on any Portage streets other than South Westnedge Avenue? [Yes – specify]

12th and Centre - even with new arrow, big backup south bound turning left. AM going to school.

12th and Center. Milham and Oakland. Milham west bound really bad. Centre added too many lights.

12th and Milham

Angling, Romence

At times, Romence west of Westnedge

Bacon Rd and portage

Brookwood on to Centre

Cars go too fast on Sprinkle Rd.

Cars race down our road

Centre

Centre

Centre

Centre (occasionally)

Centre and Shaver, Forest Dr. (any road around the lakes), Centre and Portage Rd., Centre and Lovers Lane; the new lights on Centre really don't have the visibility that they should, get rid of the median trees. The new bike clearance ordinance is ridiculous (and I ride a bike)

Centre around 12th

Centre Ave

Centre Ave

Centre Ave

Centre Ave

Centre Ave

Centre Ave - speed limit is too slow. Congestion on Shaver Road

Centre Ave during school

Centre Ave, timing of traffic signals

Centre Ave.

Centre Ave.

Centre Ave. bridge and 131

Centre Ave/Shaver

Centre b/w Oakland and Lovers

Centre between Oakland and 131

Centre between Oakland and highway - too many lights

Centre is too busy. Oakland drive needs more lanes.

Centre Road (too fast); getting out on Romence from Windemere Street

Centre Road, Romence

Centre St.

Centre Street

Centre Street

Centre Street

Centre street, especially at 131 at rush hour.

Centre west of Oakland

Centre!!!

Centre, Currier Drive use depend on Centre Street. No way to get out without going onto Westnedge or Centre. Hate the light at PCHS not blinking at night.

Centre, Milham

Centre, Portage Rd., Lovers Ln

Centre, portage.

Centre, Romence, Milham

Centre, Sprinkle

Centre. Traffic lights could be better timed

Centre/Shaver

Computer controlled lights should be removed and standard stop lights put back in

Constitution Blvd, Light changes from yellow to red in 3 seconds. Speed limit 35-impossible to stop safely

Construction sites

Depends on the time and the time of year

Do not enforce no heavy trucks on Vanderbilt Ave.

E. Osterhout and Portage Rd

Feel we need lights on 131 and center for a left turn

Holiday Traffic Congestion

I-94 / 131 N interchange at 5 PM on weekdays

Idaho +Oregon when schools lets out

Idaho and Oregon streets before and after school

Idaho entering PNHS and middle school. More entry and exit points needed.

Intersection of Oakland Drive and Centre; very confusing going north and south (turn vs straight) and east bound Centre turning lane backs up significantly impeding east bound traffic from going straight

Intersections at milham near PNHS

It depends on the direction of travel. Heading south seems to flow better on N/S streets

Kilgore

Lakeview Drive, speed too fast dangerous!!!

Large puddles can cause traffic to slow on Portage Road after a heavy rain

Light @ Bender & Portage

Light at Milham and Constitution is not good. Missed waiting traffic all the time.

Light at Zylman and Sprinkle not long enough for Zylman traffic. I can't get off my road onto Sprinkle in the mornings. Traffic never clears in both directions for left turn.

Lights on Sprinkle are not times appropriately.

Lovers Lane

Lovers Lane-Traffic 10-20 MPH to Fast

Lovers Ln and Centre - Lovers Ln to short traffic light

Many neighborhood streets connection to main streets create problems to access main roads

Milham

Milham

Milham (Oakland to Westnedge)

Milham @ Westnedge

Milham and Idaho and Oregon

Milham and Oakland

Milham and Oakland

Milham and Oakland

Milham and Oakland Drive intersection

Milham at 5-6 PM

Milham at Oakland, Centre at Shaver, Portage Central Middle School, Melody at Shaver

Milham Ave starting at Angling

Milham Ave too much at times

Milham Avenue

Milham between Oakland and 12th should be 40 mph or 45 mph. In residential neighborhoods, speeding is a constant problem.

Milham Road

Milham Road

Milham, Center, Oakland Drive

Milham, Romance wait too long at Westnedge light to turn to allow Milham and Romance traffic to move

Milham, Romance

Milham/Oakland

Milham/Oakland and Centre/Oakland

Minham & Oakland. Can't get out of subdivision during peak hours

Moorsbridge by schools

Moorsbridge Road

New Hamsphier drive, used as S Westnedge cut off street, is in very bad shape-- please repair!

No left turn arrow ever on Oakland and Shaver

Not happy with 2 new lights on W. Centre, impedes flow

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland & Milham

Oakland @ 94

Oakland @ Milham

Oakland and center

Oakland and Centre

Oakland and Centre -light is too short. Sometimes 7 sec. for Oakland to cross Centre - 1-3 cars! 7 or 10 wait!

Oakland and Milham

Oakland and Milham

Oakland and Milham intersection. Oakland and I-94

Oakland and Milham where people push over into the apartments and make a line but dont turn into the apartments

Oakland at 5:00 pm

Oakland at I94 interchange

Oakland at specific AM/PM hours

Oakland b/w Centre and I-94

Oakland backs up

Oakland- between Milham and 94

Oakland Dr

Oakland Dr

Oakland Dr

Oakland Dr.

Oakland Dr. - has really become much more busy. Difficult to enter Oakland from side streets -
Romence to Centre Roads

Oakland Dr., Milham and Romence - during high traffic time - approximately 7:50-8:30 AM and
3:45-6:00 PM

Oakland Dr.-sometimes

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland drive

Oakland drive

Oakland drive

Oakland drive

Oakland drive

Oakland drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive - getting congested. Kilgore-Westnedge area

Oakland drive and Milham

Oakland Drive and Milham in afternoons (3-6 PM)

Oakland Drive and Milham Road

Oakland drive and Milham where Oakland goes down to 1 lane. Lots of walkers there.

Oakland Drive and Osterhout/Osterhout and Portage Road

Oakland drive got pretty busy

Oakland Drive occasionally

Oakland drive south

Oakland Drive to Milham traffic backups, side street blocked by traffic on Oakland, can't turn out

Oakland Drive, Milham

Oakland Drive, West Centre, Milham - west of Westnedge to Oakland Drive

Oakland Drive Milham to Kilgore

Oakland is congested

Oakland, Angling

Oakland, Kilgore

Oakland, Milham, Romence

Oakland. Center @ Shaver

Oakland/Milham

Oakland; hard to turn out of Schuring

Osterhout and S. Westnedge line of vision makes it very difficult to cross Osterhout, by car or walking! The turn lanes increases the speed!

People speed in 35 mph zones on Centre between Shaver and Lovers lane

Portage and Sprinkle

Portage and Stanley (Portage Road needs a turn lane)

Portage Ave.

Portage by airport and Milham by high school

Portage by I94

Portage near Osterhaut

Portage Rd

Portage Rd

Portage Rd

Portage Rd

Portage Rd b/t Centre & Cork

Portage Rd, by 94

Portage Rd, Center St. Milham.

Portage Road

Portage Road

Portage road

Portage Road has been closed since June. The length of the closures is not appropriate. Osterhout was closed for too long as well.

Portage road near I-94 constantly backs up.

Portage Road, Sprinkle Road, Oakland Drive

Portage Road.

Portage Street - speed and running yellow/red lights at Milham, Romence, and Centre Street

Portage, Oakland, Shaver/ Westnedge

Putting bicycles on Portage

Romence

Romence (between Lovers and Oakland)

Romence (Westnedge to Oakland) Ex. traffic flow excessive and hinders exit/entrance to home street. Stronger lights

Romence and Sprinkle left turn signal - no blinking yellow/red

Romence between Westnedge and Oakland

Romence during rush hours

Romence Rd.

Romence Road, Moorsbridge road-- speeders

Romence, Centre

Romence, Centre, Milham, Portage Rd.

Romence/Angling - Milham Ave

Roundabout at 12th and Milham, also 12th and Parkview

Same area driving too fast

School traffic at West Centre/Melody; South Westnedge; Need an improved traffic flow plan.

Schuring Road and Oakland Drive

Schuring and Oakland gets backed up with left turns.

Schuring Road-- cars and trucks travel faster than posted speed limit

Shaver

Shaver & Melody light too long at Walmart

Shaver Rd

Shaver Rd. south

Shaver, Oakland. Why work on both at the same time? Makes no sense. Portage Road now two lanes? Stupid idea and big waste of money.

Sometimes Portage

South Westnedge south of Centre Street - traffic congestion in mornings M-F with student drop off at Central Middle School

Southbound Oakland at Milham. People are hesitant to use right lane to go straight, so left lane is backed up with hardly anyone in RT. lane, How about a sign informing people to use both lanes and use "zipper" method to merge

Southbound Oakland near Milham

Sprinkle and Meredith

Sprinkle and Portage at certain times

Sprinkle Rd. turnaround if this is part of Portage - Portage Rd. by 94

Sprinkle Road

Sprinkle Road

Sprinkle Road. Oakland and I-94

Sprinkle Road/Centre light not long enough. Turn signal only stays green for very short time.

Sprinkle, Moorsbridge

Sprinkle/Oakland I94 and Milham

Stoplights are not well timed.

The new lights on Centre Ave have to be timed better or use vehicle sensors. Too much red going east and west.

The no left turn sign into city on Sprinkle Road needs to be a lot bigger. Almost wrecked 4 times by people not obeying that sign.

The turn signal and green light at Oakland and Centre is way too short.

Too much

Traffic is very congested on Oakland Dr. for traffic leaving Robinhood Dr.

W Milham and Oakland drive-- 12th street

W. Centre Ave. and Mooresbridge

W. Milham around 7:30-9:30 AM

W. Milham Ave

West Centre Street

West Milham

Westnedge and Centre is a mess at rush hour, but what can you do?

Westnedge and Milam, Milham and Oakland

Why is it taking so long to do road construction on Portage Road South of Osterhout?

Winters. Dr too much, way too fast including city bus, FedEx and UPS and cars

41. In general, what do you feel are the best two features of Portage?

"Small" city . Many choices of businesses-grocery, general + restaurants, etc.

of cops + FD workers. I love seeing all of them. Pedestrian lights, BUT need more sidewalks + street lights

[Illegible] government; city services; bikeways; relatively low taxes; good cops and schools

[Illegible] in F.E. communities. Unity and diversity. Free enterprise. Low and high taxes and low crime in Portage.

[Illegible] & Parks

[Illegible]; Attraction of business/restaurants/entertainment

1 - I have lived here for over 50 years and am very happy with our police departments

1) Bike/walk paths 2) lakes

1) Good schools 2) Attractive residential neighborhoods

1) Parks; 2) Schools

1) people 2) schools

1) The parks and trails, 2) The police department

1) Trails and parks 2) Public works does a good job

1. A city built within its natural setting. 2. Easy access to surrounding communities because of

highways close proximities.

1. A clean, well-kept community; 2. Activities for all ages, help for those who need it
1. A well run and honest city government. 2. Good city service available to all citizens.
1. Access to nature; trails, parks, reserves, lakes, etc. 2. Great school system and commitment to education.
1. Bike trails; 2. City management is progressive
1. Central location/proximity to other cities. 2. Variety of activities (cultural, sports, academia, etc.). 3. Comprehensive services available.
1. City government; 2. School system
1. Clean city with good services 2. Excellent shopping
1. Cleanliness + small town atmosphere 2. Very safe place to live
1. Close proximity to all types of retail services; 2. Overall it is a clean city
1. Commitment to recycling 2. Feeling "safe" here
1. Constant improvements everywhere. 2. Responsive city employees.
1. Continued growth in citizen income 2. Public education including PDL
1. Decent jobs. 2. Family friendly
1. Excellent schools 2. Excellent living
1. Excellent services - garbage, snow removal etc. We pay higher taxes than Texas Township, but we get much better services. 2. Schools
1. Good location to raise a family. 2. Good schools
1. I feel safe in Portage. 2. The city is clean and well kept.
1. IB program in schools; 2. Bike paths
1. It is surprisingly still safe to live here. 2. It is not quite as bad as Kalamazoo, though the city leaders are doing their best to bring it down, eventually be as awful as Kalamazoo.
1. Local attractions: lakes, parks, proximity to Kzoo, Detroit, Chicago. 2. Education level of residents; school system
1. Lots of nature areas; 2. Quiet neighborhoods
1. Many services (shopping, medical, dental, eye care, gasoline) 2. We feel safe in Portage.
1. Most of the trails are pretty nice. 2. The exit.
1. No city income tax. 2. Trails and bike paths.

1. Park and rec. system; 2. Schools

1. Park, walkways, library 2. Safety

1. Parks in general; Celery Flats specifically. 2. Bike trails

1. Parks, trails and bike paths. 2. Maintaining roads

1. Parks/bike paths - very outdoor friendly and well maintained. 2. Safe/clean/well maintained city to live and raise a family

1. Police patrols 2. 911 response

1. Preserved land areas. 2. Good education system.

1. Public safety and security. 2. Parks, hiking, jogging, and bikeways

1. Safety level of both police and fire. 2. The natural landscape of the city both plants and animals.

1. Safety. 2. Convenience to meet my needs.

1. Schools; 2. Public safety

1. Shopping/eating area; 2. Celery Flats/park area

1. The accessible walkways and bikeways. 2. The neighborhoods and community feel. 3. Ramona Park! (I had to have a third)

1. The condition of the roads. 2. The walk/bike trails. 3. The cleanliness of the streets.

1. The general upkeep of trees, flowers, clean up of litter, etc. 2. The popular businesses that have established themselves here. (Peace, Love and Donuts, Via Gelato, Chick Filet, Trader Joes, etc.)

1. The lakes 2. The friendly city

1. The parks and trails; 2. The pride most people show of their neighborhoods

1. The parks system. I love all of the great parks and trails. 2. The school system.

1. The well-kept parks and trails 2. Use of city services

1. Trail system 2. Yards and streets well maintained

1. Trails for walking, biking, etc. 2. Convenient, nearby access to groceries, hardware, restaurants, etc. - often within walking or biking distance for us.

1. Trees and parks and lakes. 2. Low crime - safe environment

1. Very family oriented city. 2. Clean, well-managed city

1. [Illegible] 2. City services-leave pickup, recycling, etc.

7 lakes, condition of main streets

A very nice place to live - clean and safe.

A. Library; B. The bike +walking paths

Accessibility to everything clean and groomed well

Ample shopping and the overall population is well educated and law abiding

Appearance is nice.

Awesome kid parks/ playgrounds, public schools

Balanced commercial/ residential development connected neighborhoods via sidewalks and bikeways

Beauty and convenience

Being away from town but close to things. Quiet.

Bicentennial bikeway

Big city shopping in a close area. Low crime.

Bike path + schools

Bike paths

Bike paths, parks, and summer music program

Bike paths, trails throughout the community, cleanliness of community

Bike paths, trail ways.

Bike paths/ neighborhood services

Bike paths/parks. Garbage/leaf/"junk" pickup

Bike paths/schools

Bike paths; great library

Bike trail system; clean

Bike trails and green space. Easy accessibility to all you could possibly need. Shopping, exercise, entertainment

Bike trails and parks

Bike trails and parks

Bike trails and property taxes

Bike trails, library

Bike trails, recycling

Bike trails, Schools

Bike trails, well maintained

Bike trails. School system

Bike trails; Cleanliness

Bike trails; parks

Bike trails; parks and rec.

Bike trails; size

Bike, parks, hiking trails; fire dept.; schools

Bike/walking trails and library

Bikeway, trail ways, the professionalism of DPS

Bikeways and parks

Bikeways and parks system. Services especially brush, recycling, and leaves

Bikeways; parks/greenspace

Celery flats and other trails. Feel safe in my area. I live next to Sugarloaf Lake.

Celery flats. Leaf pick up and spring junk pickup.

Churches. We need Jesus. If more people understood that we are new creatures when we're saved there'd be a better portage... actually I'm happy to live here.

City feels active and full of life.

City hall and services (police and fire) are close by.

City junk collection; senior center

City owned parks, bikeways, and trail ways

City parks and availability of stores/businesses

City parks and cleanups/ leaf pick up

City parks and trails. Brush and junk clean up.

City parks and trail ways, bikeways, library

City parks, variety of restaurants and breweries

City parks/walking trails; Growth of businesses

City parks; library

City parks; schools

City services are good and appropriate for our taxes. We have lots to do for being a smaller city. It is still friendly and quaint.

City well maintained. Keeping new improvements going. City services (leaf and trash pickup)

Civil engineering and parks/trail ways

Clean and maintained well with a strong academic environment.

Clean and open. Portage is a city that is clean and spread out. This helps make it feel not crowded and very welcoming.

Clean and safe

Clean and safe environment

Clean city and good services

Clean communities / neighborhoods. Good roads.

Clean neighborhoods. Respectful people.

Clean neighborhoods; great curbside services

Clean parks and neighborhoods; school system

Clean roads and good

Clean streets, sidewalks and parks; prompt road repairs

Clean, planned

Clean, roads, family friendly

Clean, well maintained infrastructure

Clean. Reasonable taxes

Clean; Not overrun with traffic

Cleanliness; property tax exemption for low income homeowners

Cleanliness and caring. Great green spaces. Great schools.

Cleanliness and lower taxes

Cleanliness and shopping

Cleanliness, curb appeal by library

Cleanliness, people

Cleanliness, trees, most roads

Cleanliness; nice neighborhoods
Close to everything
Close to everything; quiet
Close to larger cities via 94 and 131
Close to work and good roads
College opportunities; medical facilities
Comfortable living; safe
Commercial shopping features. Cleanliness of city and countryside.
Community events
Community programs, schools
Community support evidenced in school board issues; great parks & trails
Condition of Parks & Trails. Cleanliness of city
Conservative growth & spending. Pretty good planning (such as taking care of storm water)
Convenience of shopping + restaurants
Convenience of shopping, library, access to interstates. Feel safe.
Easy access highways; school system
Easy access to highway; Safe and clean communities
Easy to find any retail store needed. Hiking/biking trails - would love to see these expanded.
Education provides; cleanliness of community
Emergency services, parks and trails
Excellent mayor - good city manager; well-run city
Excellent public schools
Excellent schools; excellent opportunities for outdoor activities/high quality of life.
Excellent services (i.e., leaf pickup, recycling, police); road upkeep is excellent.
Expanding retail; beautiful and clean city
Fairly safe and family friendly
Family neighborhoods; Great Shopping
Family oriented values; well maintained

Fantastic parks, trails, green spaces. Our amazing library!

Fire dept. and their personnel, quietness

For the most part it is a clean city! Good schools.

Friendly and clean bike paths thru city. Schools are great that benefit students

Friendly, secure

Future growth; positive outlook

General cleanliness. Public schools.

General lack of crime; schools

Good city services including safety pars and bike/walking trails

Good mix of parks and nature scape with commercial property. I hope we continue to keep this balance. Good value and quality of life

Good residents. Good services and government

Good roads. Good shopping areas.

Good schools, Easy to navigate

Good schools, great lifestyle, well maintained city.

Good schools; employment opportunities

Good schools; Safe

Gourdneck State Game Area and Portage Creek

Great biking/running trails near me. Parks are nice for taking dogs to.

Great dining; city services

Great family friendly. Nice neighborhoods.

Great family city. Great sports for kids/teens

Great place to raise a family.

Great school, safe city; bike/ walk trails

Great schools and great parks

Great schools. Close to Kazoo and WMU

Great Schools; Nice safe neighborhoods

Green spaces, schools

Growth in business

Having a park setting in the middle of the city.

I am a new person in Portage. What pulled me here is the cute/nice little city that's clean and has great school ratings. It has natural resources like lakes. It has good shops and restaurants.

I am not originally from Portage but having lived here now for 50 years I find the "people" are so very kind! I think the homes are beautiful and good schools.

I enjoy summer concerts at the dome and other arts. I also enjoy living so close to shopping and the restaurants.

I feel Portage is a very friendly city. We have many pleasant, safe neighborhoods throughout the city to bring our families up in.

I feel that the many parks are a good feature for children in this area & families. 2) The area senior center-library & Farmers Market

I feel the city is safe, plenty to do

I like living in Portage. I am disappointed we keep building natural land when we have vacant buildings that can be removed and replaced. Don't building any more natural land-Reuse what we have already designed.

I live in Hearthside Apts and enjoy using Sr. Center, Library, Mall, and many restaurants.

I love our parks and recreation sites. Beautiful and very well maintained. We have great shopping/ retail

I love Portage's trails and landscape. All the beautiful plants and views. There is a safe feeling in the town and people for the most part are kind and friendly.

I love the city of Portage. I graduated from Portage High School and have resided here for 46 years. Love the improvements being made at Northern. They deserve all of this after 50 years of having to share.

I love the way Portage keeps up on the playground and the way the closing of the parks are monitored. I do love the special days for leaf and furniture pickup.

I-94 interchange and variety of diverse places to eat.

Interest in the citizens; continued improvement in infrastructure

It is a beautiful clean town. It has a variety of things to do as well as good shops and eateries

It is difficult to rank features

It is easy to get to everywhere. All of the public areas have plenty of trees or flowers or shrubs.

It's a clean city. Low crime

It's clean and neat. I feel safe living in Portage so far.
It's fairly clean and orderly. Some good planners with basic ideas of how to help residents
It's not Kalamazoo. Parks/trails.
I've lived here 62 years - great place to live
Job opportunities and city parks. Schools
Just a nice and safe place to live.
Keep bike paths in good shape. Keep library updated
Keeping the streets cleaned and lawn maintained
Lakes, bike paths, air zoo
Lakes; Overall safe community
Large quantity of middle to upper income class families; large amounts of recreational park space.
Law and order. Convenience to retail, restaurants and highways
Leaf clean up and spring junk removal
Leaf pickup and recycling; running trails
Leaf pickups - recycling - parks
Library and bikeways
Library and its special programs. Great senior center for senior citizens
Library and staff; summer music series
Library flowers parks (dog parks)
Library services are excellent.
Library, parks- free
Library. Parks.
Library. Police Dept.
Library - good selection; electronic media pretty good. Trail system pretty good.
Loads of stores/ businesses. Great schools
Local businesses. Park system.
Location

Location of city hall + portage Public Library
Location to store and businesses
Location, conveniences
Lots of parks and close proximity to a number of lakes with public access
Lots of places to eat, great school program
Lots of things to do; public services
Love the many parks; Feel safe in our neighborhood
Low crime and good schools
Low crime and progressive
Low crime and very safe. Nice variety of restaurants and shopping
Low crime rate. Decent schools
Low crime rate. Good school system.
Low crime rates; ease of getting around
Low crime, variety of trails and parks
Low mileage rate compared to cities of comparable size. Good schools.
Low taxes, sound fiscal management-no debt
Low taxes. Road construction
Low taxes; Parks + Recreation-Bike trails etc.
Lower crime rate; great small town feel even though it's large
Maintenance of city streets + infrastructure. Quality of our schools + opportunity to succeed
Medical services
Meijer store; street repair
Moderate tax. It's not Norman, Oklahoma
Moderate taxes; keeping Portage looking nice
Most neighborhoods are nicely kept. Schools
Nature areas; city services
Nature and trails and easy access to everything safe community.
Nature-trails, trees on sides of roads; services-leaf, junk, etc.

Neighborhood-based schools. Generally crime free.

Neighborhoods; trails/bikeways

Nice city to live in. Like the trees.

Nice clean neighborhoods; close to everything I need

Nice modern schools. Portage is a very clean looking city.

Nice neighborhoods; pretty good roads (better than surrounding areas)

Nice parks; plenty of bike trails

Nice stores; nice restaurants

No major street problems. Very clean and organized on a daily basis

Not rundown like Kalamazoo, free parking better physical shape than Kalamazoo. No one way streets

Number of parks; quality neighborhoods

Organized; progressive

Our first responders - police and fire. A lot of opportunity in Portage.

Our lakes and parks

Our parks and bike paths and employees are so kind and informative and look out for residents. A+++ would not live anywhere else.

Our parks and roads

Overall services provided to the community - i.e., trash pickup, snow plowing, etc. Police and fire are excellent.

Park and trail system. Generally a good business climate.

Park like setting. Roads

Park system; city services - library

Park system; Overall atmosphere

Park system; schools

Park System; Services in general

Park systems. Street maintenance

Park/trail system and city recycling

Parking, recycling

Parks

Parks

Parks - how it is maintained

Parks & walking/biking paths; condition of city streets/schools & facilities

Parks (parks and bike paths); supportive and engaged city staff

Parks and bike paths

Parks and bike trails

Parks and bike trails

Parks and bike trails, library

Parks and bike trails/lanes; Portage Public Library

Parks and bikeways

Parks and general aesthetics of the neighborhood. Choice of restaurants and entertainment (mall, etc.)

Parks and library

Parks and most road conditions

Parks and public lands. Commercial property.

Parks and public safety officers (fire and police)

Parks and public services. Schools. Leaf and junk pick up.

Parks and restaurants/ stores

Parks and roadway landscaping

Parks and shopping mall.

Parks and the bike trails.

Parks and the Portage [illegible]

Parks and trail system. Safety

Parks and trails

Parks and trails

Parks and trails and library

Parks and trails. Spring junk pick up

Parks and trails; Great neighborhoods

Parks department and the cleanup programs

Parks including walkways and bike paths; Fire department

Parks, bike trail system

Parks, bike trails

Parks, focus on the arts; schools

Parks, green areas

Parks, Library

Parks, retail stores

Parks, safe, growing diverse population

Parks, schools

Parks, trails, city is very well kept.

Parks. Plenty of forest/ trees

Parks. Well maintained roads.

Parks/ green space

Parks/ open space. Safe and secure city living in an urban area

Parks/ trails, schools

Parks/recreation/roads

Parks/trails. Programs offered in the community

Parks/trails; Police/fire

Parks; city manager

Parks; curbside programs

Parks; trail system

Parks; trails

Parks-Library Schools

Peaceful. Easy to get around.

People are friendly; there is significant open space - even if in fully developed neighborhoods, there is open space.

People, access to everything
 Pleasant city and friendly population, great schools.
 Pleasing - well maintained community which has many services for citizens.
 Police and fire
 Police and fire dept.
 Police and fire, strong [illegible] values
 Police presence & amount of outdoor activities possibilities
 Police protection. City hall offices
 Police services/safe; generally clean
 Police, fire
 Police/ fire
 Police-fire; schools
 Portage parks, cleanliness of major areas
 Portage is a good looking / modern city. Good road systems and modern schools.
 Portage is beautiful city-very convenient to shopping and very proud to be living in this area.
 Portage is clean. Portage has trees
 Portage is clean. Shopping is close.
 Portage Libraries; Parks
 Portage Parks and the trails/pathways are part of the hominess/beauty of Portage.
 Portage Parks; Community cleanliness
 Portage Public Schools; The zoning
 Portage senior center. Public Library
 Portage Sr. Center; Parks
 Portage takes good care of city parks, buildings, common areas, etc.
 Pretty city - well run
 Pretty easy to navigate. Plenty of recreation areas.
 Pro-business and pro new business; easy access to everything
 Proximity to businesses. Decent maintenance

Public library; park system

Public schools and attractiveness of the city

Public schools; great neighborhoods

Public schools; low crime/safe

Public services are excellent. Neighborhood.

Quality of Life

Quality of services; well-maintained neighborhoods

Quality of the roads (road surfaces, landscapes); quality of the city parks

Quiet town

Recycling. Public Safety officers

Residential taxes have been kept to a minimum compared to City of Kalamazoo; Portage Public Schools have earned very respectable credits for education.

Response time for emergency services. It's very clean.

Responsible public safety department. Convenience to shopping needs.

Roads and police two biggest priorities. Both are solid in Portage.

Running/biking trails. Brush/trash clean up.

Safe and diverse.

Safe city and attractive city (good roads, good shopping, good public areas/services)

Safe community Good school system

Safe community, recreation with trails and parks. Clean, good services

Safe community. Good schools.

Safe community; access to shopping

Safe community; lots of parks/bikeways and trail ways

Safe community; reliable public services

Safe family environment and neighborhoods; Accessible parks and trails system

Safe good parks

Safe neighborhoods, ease of travel to different parts of the city and outside the city

Safe neighborhoods, good schools

Safe place to live so far.

Safe place to live. Great schools

Safe place to live; schools

Safe! Clean

Safe/clean neighborhoods; quality education

Safe; variety stores, restaurants; churches

Safety (police, fire, EMS, urgent car after hours, public transportation, etc.). Food and clothing banks.

Safety and convenience to services

Safety and junk pickup

Safety and schools

Safety, cleanliness

Safety, family friendliness, parks

Safety, panhandlers

Safety, variety of opportunities for entertainment, activity, etc.

Safety; parks

Safety; well controlled city

School district, when offered the recreation programs (music, festivals, etc.)

School system and shopping and restaurants

School system and the [illegible] awesome!!

School system, close to everything

School system; linear parks and biking trails

School, stability

School; God mix of nature and business/residential

Schools

Schools

Schools

Schools a safety Great Community!

Schools and business - industries
Schools and churches
Schools and cleanliness
Schools and employment opportunity
Schools and hiking/ bike routes
Schools and park system
Schools and parks
Schools and parks. Planting of annuals and Christmas decorations
Schools are great; many restaurants; the mall needs to open at 9:00
Schools! Public safety.
Schools, Appearance
Schools, bike trails
Schools, city services
Schools, houses are kept nice
Schools, mall
Schools, parks
Schools, safety for its citizens
Schools, trails
Schools; bikeways (would like to see connecting routes between cities)
Schools; Clean
Schools; community neighborhood services
Schools; community services; P.S. I love Portage - don't change too much!
Schools; Parks and trails; Access to shopping
Schools; parks/trails
Schools; Public safety
Schools; stores/merchant/food availability
Schools; up keep
Schools-Library

Senior Center; yearly rubbish pickup

Sense of community; Safety

Sense of community; strong city staff

Services offered are first rate: schools, fire, police, store, library, etc.; Maintenance of the community cleanliness and aesthetic, beauty of street corners, etc.

Services; parks and trails

Shopping and city parks

Shopping and dining options.

Shopping and eating places. Good roads

Shopping, middle class neighborhoods

Shopping/restaurants; parks/bike trails; curbside recycling program

Single stream recycle is awesome. Parks and trail systems are excellent.

Size (just big enough). Schools

Size, city; No traffic except for Westnedge Ave.

Small town feel; good balance of restaurants, pathways, goods and services

Small town, convenient.

Small town, good business.

Speeding with no fear of getting a ticket. Everyone runs at 10 to 15 over "no police"

Stable neighborhoods. Great shopping.

Still small city atmosphere; safety

Strong Public education system. Location between Chicago and Detroit

Strong public safety; Commitment to safe biking

Taxes and schools

The affability of the citizens and communities within Portage and the availability of services of Kalamazoo (hospital, sports, etc.)

The area lakes and also the shops/stores on Westnedge Ave

The bike lanes and trails

The bike paths and parks

The bike trail and parks

The bike trail and how progressive and good the city government is, also supporting the library and portage schools.

The bikeways and the forest

The business growth; our police and fire departments

The Celery Flats, other trails and bike paths

The city is not too compressed and the requirement for trees keeps it beautiful. The city consistently tries to make repairs to streets that are in need.

The community is well maintained and fair taxes

The convenience and availabilities of a large city with the quaintness and comfort of a smaller city. Family values are still important.

The extensive trails, nature

The lakes and parks

The lakes and public parks/trails

The library and the lakes and parks.

The library and the trail system

The library; parks

The Library; the Parks

The mixture of people and nature/ natural resources or open land. Many of relative and out of state friends compliment on this as a plus. The established businesses along Westnedge.

The park system and locally owned businesses

The park system is wonderful and I appreciate all the pickup days (brush collection, junk day, recycling)

The park system; the school system

The parks & bikeways. Celery flats is beautiful

The parks & trails

The parks and lakes

The parks and trails. The senior center and farmers market

The people, the lakes

The planned open spaces. Attention to needs to Portage citizens.

The parks and lakes

The public parks and the trails to walk
 The school system and city parks and recreation.
 The school system; city services - police and snow removal
 The schools and convenience to everything
 The schools!!! The library!!!
 The schools; the trails and parks
 The services we get
 The trails and services.
 The walking/bike trails
 Traffic flow; working people
 Traffic patterns. Small town with good schools and close to two big cities!
 Trail system is good, not a lot of crime
 Trail system, Location
 Trail systems; parks
 Trails and bike paths; recycling program
 Trails and bikeways; Parks and lots of trees and green space
 Trails for biking/ hiking. Very happy of the new 5' distance law
 Trails; sports fields
 Variety and availability in the entire city
 Variety of stores and restaurants. Good athletic facilities.
 Variety of things to do (entertainment) and places to eat and shop.
 Very friendly neighborhoods. Ease of getting around Portage (no roundabouts)
 Walkability, access to grocery, taverns, and tree lined streets, neat/clean neighborhoods
 Walking and biking trails. Like that the area is clean and quite safe.
 Walking trails and sidewalks connectivity; Convenience to roads, amenities, services (we wouldn't live outside Portage or Kalamazoo city limits because of the drive in just to pick up food or access to emergency services)
 Walking trails, parks
 Walking trails; not out and about!

Well maintained community and parks; cooperative city council

Well maintained; safe environment

Well taken care of; trees, parks, very good city government, Friendly people

Where I live everything that I need is close

Wonderful place to raise a family. Schools are very good; got 2 kids into universities of their choice

42. Looking at the next ten years, what do you think is the single most important problem facing Portage?

[Illegible]; tax base

1) Marihuana (medical or otherwise) 2) Transgender access to girls bathrooms-this is a huge issue and should be prevented

1. Housing/apt. for people; 2. Housing - 1. Rent for the following (disabled, Section 8, Hud Home) 2. Ownership

1. Maintaining infrastructure. 2. Traffic congestion, population density.

1. Please no marijuana dispensaries, medical or otherwise

1. The feds forcing more low income housing with their rules and laws. 2. Losing focus on quality. Must enforce ordinances!

A protracted effort by town to maintain a non-adversarial stance with residents during the coming period of limited resources conflicted with unrealistic demands

Abandoned commercial properties. Especially along S. Portage Road.

Acceptance in diverse population, MM acceptance. Q's 12-14 - important improving area to keep younger generations around long term.

Addressing areas of poverty + economic insecurity

Advancing age of citizenry and attracting diverse industry and services (i.e., Amazon)

Affordable housing

Affordable housing

Affordable housing for senior citizens

Affordable senior housing

Affordable/quality senior housing

Aging infrastructure

Aging infrastructure and aging population

Aging of the population

Aging population

Aging population needs (ramps, sidewalks, street lights); infrastructure improvements

Allowing more business traffic on S. Westnedge. Prior report adopted to not allow new business, city changed mind and allowed Walmart, etc., pay for report and don't follow advice.

Always producing good citizens through high school + college education!

An aging community

As someone who moves using a wheelchair + social security only income-rules out Medicaid-would appreciate additional activities/offerings for those, [illegible], who are limited and/or ruled out

As the city grows, traffic congestion seems to increase on the major roads.

Attracting new jobs and keeping the drinking water safe and lead free

Availability of new construction homes

Available jobs

Awareness of baby boomer residents

Bad management at Milham Meadows apartments. Too much loud noises, do not clean snow enough off sidewalks - not enough carports

Bad roads

Balance budget

Balancing growth and development

Being able to handle growth.

Being environmentally astute - stop chopping down trees!

Better bus service throughout the city. Particularly that are able to accommodate seniors with walkers! Most of us do not drive anymore!!

Bike safety, road conditions.

Balancing development with natural resources

Bringing new companies into area for jobs

Budget

Building more offices when existing spaces are empty.

Business growth in the limited landscape that's available to expand/grow

Bury electrical lines

Business growth and retention

Can't think of a thing

Can't think of anything! All good.

Can't think of one

Care for senior citizens

City council never says no to any business that wants to build here. How clogged do the roads need to get before you start putting the quality of life in Portage over tax revenue?

City might be growing too fast. Traffic will increase as population increases

City/school boundaries. We have a Portage mailing address, pay Portage taxes, but are in the Vicksburg school district :(We are closer to Lake Center elementary than any other school and we have 5 kids under 10

Clean drinking water, mental illness services, cost of living. These are all going to be major. Ultimately, drugs (use of drugs, sale of drugs) will greatly effect safety.

Clean water

Clean water; rivers, lakes, and streams seem to get worse and worse. Even the city water is getting worse.

Coming up and implementing strategic ways of reducing the influx of traffic on Oakland Dr.

Congestion on major streets

Connecting bike paths-- a white line on the side of the road does not safe bikeway. Planning for the growth of traffic

Conservative budgeting ... property taxes

Continual growth; support neighborhoods; safety and conditions

Continued escalation of property taxes

Continuing a good balance of commercial/industrial development and neighborhood/family areas.

Cost of housing is very high

Creating a downtown center/not being so spread out

Crime

Crime

Crime and drugs

Crime moving this way from Kalamazoo

Crime-- no reporting on crime statistics doesn't mean there is no crime. Fix it.

Crime!! All types. Lack of connection with police and neighborhood

Crime. Seems to be moving in.

Crime; providing excellent education

Crossroads Mall's stores leaving. Disruption in mall. Limits shopping Fri and Sat

Cutting down on drugs

Decaying and crumbling of neighborhood streets and dangerous sidewalks in many neighborhoods.

Decline of Crossroads Mall; attracting more industry/business opportunities

Decrease of middle class families.

Deer

Deer

Deer population

Deer population.

Deforestation

Degrading neighborhoods

Degrading neighborhoods

Designed so everything you need a car

Deteriorating infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc.)

Developing land where it is not needed

Development of older neighborhoods/low income homes

Diversity (lack of it)

Do away with the boulevard trees in the center of the road where a turn lane should be, they are dangerous

Do not overtax the property owners between city and schools millage they are getting out of

control

Don't know

Don't know

Don't know

Don't know

Don't Know

Don't know?

Drug trafficking + teenage drinking

Drug use

Drug use

Drug use among youth. This seems to be a problem in neighboring communities. It is only a matter of time that this issue will reach Portage if we don't reach it first to counteract the problem.

Drugs

Drugs

Drugs and personal security

Drugs-- especially with children and adults.

Drugs in schools. Public transportation.

Drugs; increasing taxes

Drunk drivers

Empty retail shops (or not popular/outdated, e.g. Typewriter repair shop on S. Portage Road); high taxes

Ensure our water supply stays clean

Escalating property taxes

Excessive development leading to an ever increasing number of stoplights. Every time a new light goes up it takes even longer to get around town

Excessive taxes

Expansion +traffic issues especially on S Westnedge

Family demographics have changed to include more adults per household without allowing for sufficient space for people and vehicles.

Federal government

Fixing/repairing roads

Foreign influences

Getting rid of crimes altogether in Portage. Making Portage a finer city and a family city of Portage. Improving the Earth environment.

Government spending

Government takeover of thoughts and morals

Growth

Growth

Growth

Growth & construction; maintaining services without additional tax dollars

Growth (population and industrial)

Growth and keeping up with the demands it creates. We have the best schools and portage will continue to grow

Growth must be limited. Developers need to be limited. Environmental, sustainability, and resilience must be priorities. We need the city government to serve the people and not property developers.

Growth-- roads and paths keeping up in good working order

Growth will lead to problems with traffic flow and road conditions

Growth, need to slow down

Growth, Portage is expanding. But you need to learn from Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Detroit. What did they do wrong? How can we grow with integrity?

Growth and planning for it

Having a place and support for teens. They roam the streets too much

Having to pay more than our fair share for consolidated 911

Healthy economy

High Taxes!!

High water bills

Higher taxes for families on fixed incomes.

Homeless population

Hope we can continue all the programs, leaf, curbside, brush pickups for a long time

Housing for low income residents-seniors/families/individuals

Houses getting older and not maintained in some older neighborhoods which brings in less desirable renters and low income families

Housing that is not being taken care of

How to manage growth

Human trafficking and child abduction. Lower income - water bill astronomical. Shouldn't have a base fee that high.

I cannot think of anything.

I don't have a clear opinion on this.

I don't know

I feel that growth is a problem for our community. Kalamazoo has a lot to offer families and Mattawan is growing and I don't want our community to suffer and hope we can keep our businesses in tact

I feel that there is a growing amount of poverty in the area and some homelessness. I would like to see something done to help these people. Maybe a homeless shelter, or better yet, housing for the homeless.

I heard the high school has a drug problem nicknamed "heroin high"... it was disturbing to hear from my 11 year old.

I think taxes are too high and people can't afford to live here. I think it is too expensive to live here and tolerate the planes until late at night. I am considering moving because of the noise.

I understand that our police can't be everywhere at the same time, so keeping on top of what seems like a spike in assaults in Portage (parks).

If taxes increase it will deter people from wanting to move into Portage

I'll be in Heaven then unless God wants me to live until I'm 98 years! The church needs to preach the gospel of Jesus. I know I'll go to heaven when I die. We all can know is we surrender our heart to HIM.

Illegal drug use

Implementing medical marijuana legalization and you should do it

In many cases much lacking parenting crime-I have been taking care of children in my home & helping to raise my grandchildren. It starts when they are young-parenting is important

Increase in population

Increase in residents (not a problem) which will lead to more transportation issues.

Increased crime-multiple thefts/break-ins in our area

Increased taxes

Increased traffic flow

Increasing cost of living

Increasing crime, which decreases quality of life

Increasing population

Increasing poverty among population

Increasing taxes every year

Infrastructure

Infrastructure: keeping up with a rapidly growing community.

Infrastructure; building a vibrant "downtown" area

It's good!

Job and business growth

Job sources

Jobs for middle class

Jobs, which create growth. Higher education jobs in particular

Jobs; industry

Keep crime down

Keep improving schools and services

Keep Pfizer and Striker corporate manufacturing presence strong

Keeping business coming into the city

Keeping business here so we can keep school competitive by maintaining tax base

Keeping businesses in Portage

Keeping crime down-clean safe neighborhoods. Access to jobs nearby

Keeping crime low

Keeping it a good city to raise a family. Good neighborhoods, etc.

Keeping it clean! Look at Meijer parking lot, and walking in neighborhoods

Keeping job opportunities for our families to stay and prosper

Keeping neighborhood values stable or on the rise, preventing housing stock from degrading

Keeping open and free land for residents to enjoy

Keeping our schools excellent and being able to compete with areas like Mattawan

Keeping peace among increasing racial diversity.

Keeping rental properties in check to keep the right residential mix. Look around us - no rental controls in Kazoo/BC/Grand Rapids have ruined communities.

Keeping streets maintained and continue to beautify the city.

Keeping tax law

Keeping taxes and fees low

Keeping taxes as low as possible

Keeping the educational facilities up to handle our increasing population whilst controlling costs.

Keeping up with population increase

Keeping up with road repair.

Kids drug use

Kilgore traffic

Lack of crime information communicated to the public. Police are non-communicative and distant--no cooperation and in some cases no common sense. Not quick to help

Lack of downtown - too many strip malls; no real identity and focus

Lack of funding or cuts to education

Lack of funds due to the economy and job insecurity.

Lack of major businesses

Lack of police presence on side and neighborhood streets. Lots of speeders.

Lack of residential real estate for growth

Lack of space for homes

Legalize pot! Ok, ok. Be wary of Californication of neighborhoods-- tearing down modest homes to build monstrosities (4000+ sq. ft.)

Legalizing marijuana - or dispensaries, etc. - bad business to get into these issues.

Limited room for new housing; if we lost Stryker or Pfizer the loss would be devastating

Limiting Westnedge Ave. Let new businesses make and support other areas so they too can prosper and divert a lot of traffic flow.

Losing out to West side of Kalamazoo, downtown Kalamazoo

Loss of green space and over construction that [illegible] forests into neighborhoods and soil into paved streets

Loss of natural land. No longer the "tree city"

Loss of retail. Maintenance of entry level and blue collar employment

Loss of tax revenue from retail business due to internet purchase; empty buildings

Losing the wetlands for commercial building

Low income families unable to keep up and or repair their homes.

Maintain a fair, low tax base and low debt!

Maintain present

Maintaining residential (single family) home balance to increasing apartments, condos, and commercial

Maintaining adequate level of services

Maintaining an environment conducive to achieving retail growth & success

Maintaining businesses (feel there is a lot of commercial space that is abandoned/for rent)

Maintaining city infrastructure

Maintaining clean, well kept, updated neighborhoods

Maintaining infrastructure

Maintaining low taxes

Maintaining our aging infrastructure. Water/sewer and storm water collection systems.

Maintaining quality of housing and neighborhoods.

Maintaining quality of housing, i.e. keeping neighborhood to a high standard as well as apartments.

Maintaining quality schools

Maintaining strong moral compass, especially in schools.

Maintaining the excellent infrastructure and supportive services.

Maintaining the level of "niceness" that we have now

Making sure there is a balance of new business and quality of life

Manageable growth

Managed growth

Managing growth

Managing growth

Managing growth wisely to preserve open space.

Managing growth, particularly traffic issues

Managing the industrial and residential traffic growth

Managing the taxpayer dollar

Money always an issue. Baby boomers and senior center

Money for schools to keep up with ever changing economic times/culture

More buildings and homes are being built and it isn't leaving much room for wildlife to go

More small business. There are a TON of chains on Westnedge. Would like to see more local spots

More youth programs

Moving toward green energy in a proactive way

Moving toward renewable energy/ reduce fossil fuel use.

Must lower property taxes

Nasime Ansari!!! Too many garbage trucks all day Monday.

Need a plan to develop a "center" to the city that promotes civic engagement. Shouldn't always be "sprawling" with growth. Make Shaver/Centre/Westnedge area?

Need for affordable housing (to attract a more diverse population)

Need to develop new businesses

Needs more of "downtown" like Kalamazoo - as more people shop online - the space where mall is - create a downtown?

Neighborhood blight and crime; homes in disarray bad

Neighborhood road conditions

New jobs and lower taxes

No AC in older elementary schools in hot months

No idea

No land left for all the rich developers to turn into high cost condos or housing, show me one neighborhood developed for housing of homes in the \$100,000 to \$30, 000 for lower income families in the last 10 years

No more subsidized housing, we have too much know

No new taxes!

No opinion

None

Not enough recreation for children.

Not expanding too much and losing the "small community feel" and all the nature we have around us. Seems like new complexes are going up everywhere! Too many!

Not having a cohesive and friendly community

Not sure

Not sure

Not sure

Older homes being purchased by slum lords and rented out to families/persons who commit crimes, have blight, use/deal drugs... Have no connection to the area and no care or concern for the neighborhood around them.

Opening up land for incoming residents

Over built

Overcrowding - the growth I've seen in past 12 years has driven me out of Portage. Leaving Portage very soon.

Over development

Over planning to bring too many businesses and people into the area can ruin a place too. We build much too much strip malls and office buildings for naught-they lay vacant--not a good sign and the money/ leases are way too high to keep many businesses.

Over population=traffic

Overall, there are not enough young people to work today, therefore it will be very hard for businesses to survive in the future

Overbuilding absorbing wetlands

Overcrowding Westnedge

Overdevelopment

Over-development on Portage Road

Overgrowth of population

Over-management

Overpopulation

Overpopulation, crime

Overpopulation, leading to increased congestion and building in an already very busy city.

Patricia Randall continuing on the city council

People driving and texting and people driving in turn lane.

Personally I would like to see more resources/ childcare for special needs children/ adults

Petty theft

Planning for growth

Planning for local development

Police protection, corruption

Police. We need more police on Lovers Lane. That's why the deer are getting hit. Driving too fast. With Stryker going in there will be twice as much traffic and more animals habitat being taken away.

Poor resale value of homes in neglected neighborhoods on South Westnedge

Population

Population

Population becoming denser +denser

Population explosion

Population growth - overcrowding

Population growth comes with more crime and more road rage

Population increase

Population increasing

Portage doesn't feel like a city. It feels like a suburb of Kalamazoo. There is no metropolitan area to support "downtown" life.

Portage senior center improvement

Potential of a major employer (e.g., Pfizer or Striker) substantially cutting its workforce.

Potential property tax increases that can make living in Portage unaffordable

Preserving green spaces

Preserving the outdoor beauty while growing. I am thrilled to see our community grow and thrive. I do hope this can be balanced. For example - driving down Centre by 131 and Oakland looks very different today vs. 5 years ago. Business growth is fantastic. So far I do think that area still has the wooded feel that I love.

Private property maintenance; trees getting older and needs attention; facility for larger gathering - larger venues

Probably enough money to do all the things needed to keep doing the things needed

Probably increasing percentage of low income households

Probably online shopping affecting the stores and, hence, Portage's tax base. What will Westnedge become in the future? Better? Worse?

Probably the rundown look of neighborhoods. Yards with old cars next to the homes, lawns not taken care of and cars parking in the front yard.

Profiling and discrimination by police

Proper expansion planning

Property tax increase. Taxes are currently too high!

Property taxes are high - with the business growth and tax base, homeowners should get a break

Public low income housing

Public transportation - with no car, it is very difficult to get around Portage if you're old or poor

Public treasures (Parks) crime rate increase. No social life, no night life, minimal family activities. Horrible roads, too much low income housing

Raising children who are responsible, caring, involved, and informed about their community.

Roads/ traffic

Rec center for youth. Enforce blight in old neighborhoods and trailer parks

Reducing drug use in the community/schools

Rehab. for older buildings/services \$\$ Updates for fire/police (\$\$\$) services (also opioid epidemic)

Relatively high taxes forcing people to look other places for housing

Residential development--developers taking land, leaving shortage for residents/ potential

residents to build homes. That leaves a house shortage and increases house prices (housing bubble)

Responsible budgeting and personal control by city officials. School population has run amok.

Retail stores closing, tax base loss

Retain younger population. I do see only the aged population or the retired ones here. Get companies to start business here; provide or plan out the waste spaces for business and there will be a good reason for younger generation to thrive here rather than move out.

Retaining current jobs and attracting new businesses to help maintain tax base.

Rising crime rates (especially in neighborhoods, but also in stores)

Rising taxes and fees

Road maintenance

Road maintenance and bikeways (I am not familiar with the workload at the police department or fire department)

Roads

Roads

Roads

Roads

Roads

Roads and infrastructure

Roads and potholes. Traffic on S Westnedge at the school blocking the road in the morning and afternoon cars line up. I have to leave my house to Melody to Shaver back on Centre. Out of my way because of this

Roads are not good

Roads; Health care - need more doctors

Roads-streets. Parking for city events

Roadways especially S. Westnedge, repairing streets from potholes

Room for residential housing (affordable)

Safe lanes for commuter bicyclists

Safe, affordable water

Safety and maintaining upkeep of neighborhoods

Safety on city streets. In my neighborhood many vehicles drive at high rates of speed. ZERO police patrols. Many bikes on the roads, lights should be required.

Safety, congestion, overcrowding

Same as above plus maintenance of good school system.

School system

Schools

Services and road conditions

Social issues - teens and drinking/drugs, homeless

South Westnedge traffic

Speed on streets, especially at s. Westnedge portage road at Lakeview

Speeders through residential areas. Not enough police in the areas.

Sprawling growth /w tax increase

Stop spending tax money on feel good projects-like boulevards

Street congestion

Street repairs

Streets

Streets in my neighborhood are in poor condition

Stupid boulevards! Get rid of them and put in left turn lanes

Subsidized living

Tax breaks for companies

Tax hikes could impact community growth

Tax rates

Tax structures-- If I didn't like my home I would move to one of the outside communities where taxes are cheaper

Taxation, traffic, police lack of traffic enforcement

Taxes

Taxes

Taxes

Taxes

Taxes and employment (going up/lack of)

Taxes and housing prices no longer being competitive with local area (specifically Kzoo)

Taxes being too high

Taxes consistently increasing

Taxes higher than city of Kalamazoo

Taxes that keep rising every year at a higher percentage rate than inflation. The electric grid seems to be getting old

Taxes!

Taxes!!!

Taxes, deer

Taxes; road conditions; traffic congestion on Westnedge

Teenage speeding, alcohol and drugs

Terrible government and planning and development run their [illegible] as they own the city-- lousy, arrogant director!

Texting and driving

The city government is totally corrupt. The schools suck. Highest paid teachers for what? All they do is complain and then don't do their job. Should all be fired and then start over.

The city keep getting big, maybe too big

The condition of our roads.

The condition of the roads in some areas

The education system

The flow of traffic on S. Westnedge.

The increase boulevards that cost taxpayer money to maintain and with the added bushes are harder for motorist to have proper line of sight

The increase of vehicles on the roads

The mall-- They seem to be going extinct and crossroads is huge.

The Mall, malls are dying

The potential for increased racial and socio-economic disparity

The rate of our taxes is increasing!

The rise in rental housing--people buying houses then renting them out

The rising cost of maintaining streets and roads

The roads

The senior population in Portage has grown, but services to keep them in their own homes is stagnant or non-existent.

The single most important problem facing Portage is the Milham Meadows due to the quality of people Portage will downgrade.

The thugs-- speeders, tailgaters, and reckless drivers have taken over every street and road in Portage. No one ever gets ticketed. How can this be? It continually gets worse and no one cares.

There continues to be discussions by business owner I know about the negative attitude of the city toward businesses. Also people that build houses talk about unreasonable demands by inspectors

There is very limited space for families to build, which causes the city to be limited in terms of growth.

These surveys. These are pain in the ass

To keep Portage the fine city it is without increasing the tax burden on its' citizens

Too many Boulevards!

Too many families moving out of Portage. Must do more to keep well-paying employment in area

Too many people voting republican.

Too much construction of new buildings--businesses should have to purchase old building lots and rather than razing trees and starting new--businesses should be required to have parking plans

Too much expansion and lack of resources to enforce ordinances that go with increased expansion/population

Too much government/low cost housing - crime rates will increase.

Too much public housing

Too much unplanned growth. Too much reliance on Pfizer and Stryker for employment.

Tracking good jobs that do not depend on Pfizer or Striker

Traffic

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Traffic

Traffic - congestion and additional road repairs.

Traffic - increased bicycle traffic alongside auto and truck - auto and bike should be educated in rules for both to increase safety

Traffic and business growth

Traffic and roads

Traffic congestion

Traffic control

Traffic control and speed

Traffic control. Being able to get around with ease. It's getting to be a hassle to go anywhere. Keep up with infrastructure needs.

Traffic control/speed. Government Interference

Traffic enforcement

Traffic esp. Oakland and Westnedge

Traffic flow

Traffic flow

Traffic flow from increased development

Traffic flow on Westnedge

Traffic flow. Lower taxes.

Traffic from the new Stryker building.

Traffic growth issues

Traffic in front of central high school and middle school off points why do we have bussing.

Traffic management

Traffic on Centre and Oakland

Traffic on the two main roads, Westnedge and Oakland

Traffic on Westnedge and Centre Street

Traffic on Westnedge. I worry about vacant businesses sitting/decomposing due to retail stores closing rapidly.

Traffic- Westnedge

Traffic!! Too many businesses.

Traffic, deer

Traffic, road conditions

Traffic, water & sewer rates

Traffic. Destruction of woodlands for development.

Traffic. Need traffic light at Brookwood and Centre

Traffic/ over population

Traffic/parking space. Places to practice ballroom dancing (clubs or some other places)

Traffic; Roads

Traffic [illegible] growth

Uncontrollable growth

Unsustainable taxes

Updating schools to accommodate more kids

Upkeep of aging businesses and homes.

Upkeep of services. Clean drinking water

Urban sprawl

Using critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making in an era of "subjective facts."
Applies to supporting job creation, what is taught in schools - heck, even the very existence of public schools! Etc., etc.

Violence and drug use brought in from bigger cities and Mexico.

Violence!!

Walkability/transit. Aging housing/infrastructure. Not much new construction, seems like.

Water to homes

Water too expensive. Cost needs to come down. Especially if neighbors are worried about the grass.

We have to balance growing population with not over developing land. We need green spaces.

We will probably run out of room to grow economically and still keep our green spaces.

Widening roads and providing better water quality. No more "orange" water and grey/white clothes!

Zoning, its real hodge podge. Nothing matches in design-Westnedge is cluttered-not attractive

46. How would you classify your racial or ethnic heritage? [Other – specify]

Alien

American

American

American
American
American Indian/Caucasian Mix
Doesn't matter
European American
Human
Human
Human race
Human race--there is only one
I don't believe race is a valid term.
Indian
Middle-Eastern decent
N/A
Pakistani American
White
White/ American Indian

48. Which of the following best describes where you live? [Other – specify]

Apartment in a senior citizen residence
Duplex
Duplex
Duplex
Duplex
I live in a complex where there are both apartments, condominiums and lofts
Married town home
Senior Apartments
Senior housing apt. complex
Senior Housing Complex

Senior Living

Senior service apartment

Senior Townhomes - Hearthside

Townhome

Townhome

Townhome

Townhouse complex

51. Please indicate below any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you may have for the City of Portage.

#6: My answer might change if location and cost were known. #9: Impossible to answer without knowing what a "diversity event" might be. #16: Would appreciate twice a year and would pay for it.

(Page 1, question 2) I didn't know these programs existed. How many are there? (Page 3, Question 13) I believe the standards of alcohol should be the same as far as the amount inside a vehicle and packaging as well as consumption.

1. Keep up the good work. 2. Happy to pay taxes for city services that are provided to all.

1. Please more thoroughly scrutinize contractors - not hire strictly on cost. 2. be more conscious of tree removal - replant versus cut down.

94 Kilgore needs real bicycle lanes. What is there now is very dangerous.

A community splash pad would be nice. I have been very upset with how communication has been handled about new sidewalks being installed in my neighborhood. The department and people in charge of this project last summer and this summer have done a HORRIBLE job! Absolutely pathetic and unprofessional.

A great city to be living in. Keep the emphasis that it is a "tree city."

A light (traffic) on the corner of Centre and Brookwood. Lower the speed limit on Centre from 45 mph to 35 mph (between Shaver and Oakland Drive)

A park or promenade where people can hang out/walk even at night.

Accommodating seniors

Add more trails to connect with existing trail system. Some major roads don't have sidewalks creating safety issues

Air conditioning for all elementary schools would be nice. Re-evaluation of elementary schools

should have been a higher priority over football fields.

Already noted that the city and employees in planning and development do more to hinder business groups than they do to encourage same

Appreciate the transparency and leadership of our community leaders!

As indicated earlier, rust in our water is quite a problem. I live in Oakland Hills Condos and I know our association has complained several times, but nothing seems to be done to correct the problem. Also, I must state that my taxes are, in my opinion, way too high! I live in a one bedroom, 2,000 square foot condo and my taxes are \$5,000 per year. Considering this I cannot support any additional expenditures or costs to our budget. This amount on this home is way out of line.

As the city continues to age please do what you can to prevent older homes from going into disrepair. Neighbors try less to keep up their own homes when they see the house next door is in ruins. I would support city tax dollars going towards demolition of blighted properties and minimum standards being enforced on current homes.

Be attentive to citizen concerns and input

Be diligent with repairs to structures and facilities at all levels!

Benches and more toilet facilities on the trails are important for the more senior members of our community. Also, trash/recycling containers. I love our park system and want everyone to be able to enjoy it.

Better snow removal, senior services, water and garbage removal.

Bicycles, think about this, they pay nothing to ride all over our roads and streets, but everybody else pay's for permits and plates to be on the streets. How much does the city pay for signs, markings and trails for them? Invoke a \$5.00 permit (one time) so we can listen to them groan, grip, complain & bellyache. A thought.

Bike lanes on the roads, and who uses them and who doesn't. It is ludicrous to think people on bikes are as fast as cars. I'm a bicyclist. I do not belong on the street. The speed limits on the main roads are too fast for bikes. It is a danger to bikes and cars to put them in the same space. You want cars to be conscious of bikes, but many bikes on the road don't even know the rules of the road for bikes. Sun lights, don't signal, etc... Road rules only apply if it is convenient for them. Bikes belong on trails not main roadways.

Bike racks in front of stores, bike trail along Shaver to access Meijer and then further south. Have bike maps of Kalamazoo/Vicksburg/Schoolcraft available with the Portage bikeway. Information in Portager newsletter about trimming/removal of trees in Portage hell strip. More information about invasive and location of available bags for disposal. Maybe have an email sign-up for local government news like the city hall open house on Sept. 25. Would not have known if did not receive newspaper. The flashing yellow light at South West edge Park is really useless. I never notice it anymore. Would be better if it did not flash 24/7 and instead be

pedestrian activated. Single stream recycling is FANTASTIC! Thank you for good quality water.
Bikeway, separate from road, along Sprinkle.

Bushes and leaves collect on the street near our drive way and the street sweeper seems to make it worse. Our street is virtually ignored for snow removal.

Catch drain outside of my house spews out foreign material with heavy rains. I have reported, stops for a while then repeats. My water from tap often smells like sulfur and that is a mild concern.

City of Portage Police provide excellent services as does the fire department. You should be very proud of them. Portage also has excellent schools! My only concerns lie with Public Ordinance on upkeep of property. My current neighborhood is fine but a number of problems were reported in the Southeast Portage area and no action was taken. Either ordinance does not exist or it is not enforced.

City officials need to be pro-active rather than re-active. They attack problems after an occurrence rather than trying to see, in advance, what could be an issue in the future. After school programs for kids and more resources for those over 60 (help with home maintenance, more affordable housing options, transportation) are two areas of great importance!

City officials should concentrate on providing good police and fire protection. They also need to get rid of services that do not meet the needs of the majority. Pay attention to realistic cost/benefits.

City parks are excellent - aesthetics etc. We've enjoyed living in this community for 30 yrs. now. I feel the city council pays attention to what's happening in our community. Only once did I see the city manager renege on a promise the city made to new police [illegible], a pay raise each year for the first 4 years - the city reneged on the 4th year pay raise and because of it lost my son to KDPS along with several other excellent officers. That was wrong and dishonest. Scheduling at that time was also horrible because of an unyielding deputy city manager. Fortunately, that has been corrected in the last couple of years.

City road work (specifically Angling Road) took entirely too long to complete. A complete road closure for 4 months was not well-planned, especially when other local roads were having work done at the same time (Milham, Oakland, and Westnedge).

City water is very hard. Can it be softened without using salt?

Comments: Keep up the good work. Every little bit helps when it comes to our community.

Concern for goose population and the condition/disease they cause in the lakes

Concern: We moved into the area where zoning structures were in place. Apparently they have been changed allowing trucks, boats, and junk cars to be parked in side yards? We do not remember being notified of the changes. When we called we were told not to worry about it! We do! It affects our house value!

Concerned about the number of wild animals in the city and especially people feeding them (skunks!) maybe an ordinance against feeding would be in order (I know it is hard).

Concerned about traffic getting worse. Concerned about retail stores closing, leaving vacant buildings (i.e., arbys, gonder mountain). City services are great and just enough for our needs, i.e. leaf pickup, large trash pickup. City police and fire do a great job and make us feel safe.

Continue expanding bikeways and parks. Continue existing services (leaf and recycling, etc.). Maintain snow removal level of service. Maintain existing tax levels and match inflation or less

Continue good school facilities. Crack down on junky yards and houses. Try to keep traffic down, make handicapped accessible stores, parks, etc. Keep Crossroads Mall strong, keep youth sports a priority.

Continue to install sidewalks in the neighborhoods

Continue to keep portage a safe environment and continue to upgrade schools-The children are our future and we must continue to have the best of schools

Continue to maintain the park system. List Portage Central/Northern sporting events in the Portager.

Control deer population. We live along portage creek across from Oakland Hills condos and they messed with the creek which created a virtual swamp. Also flooding happening over the road on Oakland dr. just south of Centre Ave.

Control lakes more for loud noise that boats have using Radio! All vehicles should have headlights turned on always (but this may be a state issue). There is too much congestion around PCHS when school gets out - a different solution needs to be addressed by school and police department.

Crime in my neighborhood; auto and home break-ins

Do more to get rid of the deer.

Do not allow jogger's runners or bikers to wear headphones. Take up half of traffic lanes. Ticket them when they don't obey traffic laws. i.e., running red lights, stop signs, etc.

Dogs need to be on leashes in parks. We need to keep the Portage Creek Clean!

Doing a good job

Doing a great job for all of us - Could use a little more dialogue with public safety. Called them late at night and report an accident that damaged lawn - never heard who it was or possible injury.

Drivers in Portage often go through crosswalks with pedestrians also in the crosswalk. Pedestrian and bicyclists in the roadways are injured or killed following the law. There needs to be a driver awareness campaign using police officers to enforce safety. Drivers need to be aware of pedestrian culture and the city should assist in developing a pedestrian culture.

Drugs remain a universal problem. Education in our primary schools is important so our young population is informed about 1. Physical and mental impact 2. Consequence of illegally using controlled drugs i.e., kids taking prescription meds from parents

During the winter the roads are not plowed as promptly as they should be

Eliminate personal fireworks in neighborhood to improve live of veterans and pets

Eliminate all individual driveways on S. Westnedge--connect all parking lots so traffic must enter and exit businesses at the traffic lights. Neater leaf pick up and sweeping all streets afterward. Eliminate beggars at stoplights and intersections. Keeping all drains cleared so drainage can happen

Enforce the city ordinances more. Do something about fireworks. I live in an area that houses are very close. Have a lot of litter from them in my yard after

Enforce the ordinances that impact property values (storing RVs on lots, broken down cars on drive ways, residential building permits)

Enforce fines for junk cars, boats, trailers etc. in yards. Snow removal at intersections of side roads to major roads. Water/sewer rates make it not affordable to water lawns, much higher than Kalamazoo

Enjoy how landscaping is constantly being added in common areas, roadside etc.!

Enjoy living in Portage overall.

Enough school projects!

Excessive speed of school buses and traffic in general on Evergreen Street.

Expansion of bikeway to cover Southwest Portage, specifically Centre Ave.

Fall leaf pickup starts way too early

Finish a job before starting a new job. Have someone go and look at a jobs while they are being done. And after they are finished, don't let people use city cars for personal use.

Fireworks are a big problem - should be limited to July 4th - As it stands, now we have [?] stop a day before and after every holiday - Families are trying to celebrate Christmas Eve. It was a much nicer area without all the noise from too much fireworks.

Fix roads and traffic flow/timing

Fix the sewer system in the Lexington Green Neighborhood. Fix the tree roots and erosion on bike trails. The bike trails need to be more like KRVT where it connects and isn't just bike lanes on the road. It would be nice for all neighborhoods to somehow connect to bike trails without concern for busy roadways.

Free Wi-Fi, a program to promote TV antennas so we can cut the cord! Bike lanes! Ride your bike month on Oakland past 94 and it disappears. Allow jeepers or whatever you call them...

Private vehicle in multiple rides, cheap friendly and available. Thank you for caring what I think. I love living here, my family will drag me out of Portage kicking and screaming!! (2 daughters - one on each coast).

Good job! The mayor has done a great job! Keep up the good work!

Great city. City should take care of bikeways in winter.

Great library. I support continuing to invest resources to keep it relevant, especially to those with limited resources. Would like to see a program to help people renovate their homes. Important with the aging homes in Portage, and continuing to draw people to live in the city rather than moving out. Should have more options for internet service. Maybe not a city government scope, but it is annoying to only have shitty Charter.

Great place to live!

Great place to live! Good schools. Need to take care of our infrastructure. Thank you!

Great place to work and live!

Have more flashing lights on Westnedge late at night and early morning hours.

Higher taxes for families on fixed incomes. Good job with bikes, trails, parks, and library.

Honestly integrity in city government which has been lacking in the past. (Citizens aren't as ignorant as you many think.) Listening to, and respecting citizens' opinions. Transparency in government. Stop the B.S. It is recognized whether it's acknowledged or not.

Hope city will work with small businesses on Portage Rd to many empty buildings.

I absolutely love being a Portage resident!

I am a senior citizen on fixed income. Taxes! I am satisfied with the amount I actually pay for my property but that is only about 1/3 of the total bill. The other assessments are for items I voted against. Seniors are forced to pay for things we don't use or endorse.

I am concerned about the ever increasing cost of city sewer and water rates. The lane obstruction and road hazards caused by school parents providing private transportation for their children attending the portage central campus is a nightmare for legitimate traffic, both AM and PM. The free flow of traffic should be the prime objective. Parents should not be allowed to impose road blockades on others.

I am concerned if Portage Road south of I-94 to Romence will last with all of the additional truck traffic. My thought is when the time comes to rebuild Portage Road, Stryker should cost share with the city.

I am very concerned with the city council's decision to provide funding for the 911 facility. The popular vote should have been followed. Otherwise, don't waste our time with a symbolic vote-the council-members who voted for the measure have not given me reason to trust them.

I appreciate the option of a bonfire permit being available to residents. Need more acknowledgement of Portage historical properties, settlers.

I didn't even know Portage had a website.

I do not like high cost of sewer and water. My sister pays for less in Kalamazoo. Both of us live alone in condos with same usage.

I do not understand why home assessment values do not correlate to property value. Clarity in the property tax/home assessment determinations would be appreciated.

I don't know

I don't think a round-a-bout is necessary on Portage Rd and Osterhoot. It seems to be a waste of taxpayer money. I'd rather see better care of snow and clearing the roads.

I feel it is a shame, that I have never been able to use the trail behind my house at [Westnedge address]. You have signs, no motorized carts. I do not have the use of my legs. It would be nice if you looked into this.

I find this funny as the city has already helped developers swindle us out of state land all along Center ST and Angling Rd. First 30 years of my life I only saw 4 deer in all of portage. So explain the stupidity of all the city officials and rich folks that now live on all this land they get what they asked for they can all just shut up and live with what they created. Portage the natural place to live what a joke should be called the rich prick town the rest need to get out.

I get water from Kalamazoo. Portage charges me way too much for sewer. I use lots of water in hot weather on my lawn. This water does not go into the sewer, but Portage charges me for watering my lawn.

I had to give up walking my dogs on Lakeview because the speed is too high with unimproved road (no sidewalks, too narrow, no curbs). You have to drive into people's yards to avoid being hit. Not only by neighbors, but garbage trucks, school buses (which break check right in front of you) and city parks vehicles. I have to load my dogs into my car twice a day and take them to portage central to walk around which costs me gas money and time out of my day. Not saying I want sidewalks because that would encourage bicycles, but I want the speed lowered and Lakeview made a private road.

I have a Portage address, but I live outside of Portage City limits.

I have always had concerns with Pfizer and the oversight of their operations and possible water contamination and air quality in the surrounding neighborhoods. In my house I can predict when the city treats the water because my water smells like chlorine. I'm not sure if this is a problem that can be solved, but we can't drink water for a day or two after.

I have been here since before Portage became a city. It is my home and I am proud to say I am from Portage.

I have had some medical issues so we were not the best people for this survey.

I have lived here for 40 years and I have not had any problems with the city operating process.

I have lived in a number of states and towns. Portage is a good place to live.

I have some concerns regarding Traffic Lights on Westnedge and Centre Streets. If you are traveling East or West and trying to cross Westnedge, the wait time going East or West is way too long. And the same for going north and south trying to cross Centre Street. Why is the traffic on Westnedge and Centre given much more time with a green light than the traffic trying to cross those streets and why is the traffic on Westnedge and Centre more important than the traffic trying to cross those streets?

I know a lot of people disliked Mike Stampfler. However, one thing he was a stickler on was keeping areas clean. It appears after he left that idea changed. Businesses don't clean their parking lots (just look at Meijer North on South). Several homes are in need of repair. We need to do better to keep our community looking good. Thank you!

I know this is a problem most places but schools particularly because of young-non-thinking [drivers]. I live across from Northern schools (houses on one side of roads-schools on west side. I have children I care for & when I take them outdoors, way too many speeders on street. Schools need more watchful eyes by police when in session.

I like living in Portage a quiet clean,

I like the community, especially my neighborhood.

I like the current size of the park system. I don't see expansion as a good way to spend tax money. Reducing or freezing tax levels would keep more money in peoples' pockets. That money will be partially spend in the community stimulating our already robust economy.

I live in Shannondale area, break-ins are way up, better street lights, too much action in the apartment complex along Milham into the Shannondale area.

I love living in Portage. I feel safe, have good neighbors, and love Celery Flats

I love Portage!

I love the emphasis on our parks; our police and fire increase them they are invaluable; winter months sidewalk snow removal is a problem; some people not maintaining; fees and fines stronger; put more liens on homes

I love using the walking/biking/etc. paths - would love to see even more pathways.

I moved to Portage with my family 20 years ago because I was led to believe it was a nice place. Since then I've experienced: my property being searched for pipe bombs, police sending flyers telling me to lock doors and windows due to crime, neighbors who had a meth lab in their house, neighbor's house that became a frat house, neighbors cutting my telephone lines, and I have to be quick to check my mail so I don't get run down every single day! Kids are grown and I/we are looking to get out of here!!! :)

I really do not want fluoride in the water supply. I would like to see more green energy used and modeled by the city, and actively encouraged for residents. I would like more focus on using Native Michigan plants in city parks and opportunities to volunteer to help protect and maintain the ecosystem.

I think a "no turn on red" sign should come on for north bound Portage Road turning onto Zylman. I have turned right onto Zylman from Portage and had left turners heading south almost hit me not knowing that they have a green turn arrow on their side. Use surplus dollars to fix side streets. Seems like the main roads get fixed more times and side streets never get touched.

I think the board of education should come up with programs for the Portage schools to help push technical studies. Not everyone is academically inclined and there shouldn't be a push for college so much. Technical and vocational schools should be mentioned when telling students about moving on after high school. We need electricians, carpenters and masons. We really need to let our students know that you don't have to go to college to be a success in life. Hopefully this doesn't fall on deaf ears. Thank you. They are our future.

I think the crews doing the leaf and brush pickup are sloppy. They need to do a better job of completely cleaning up the piles. Also, why weren't the streets swept by a street sweeper this year?

I totally disagree with having medical marihuana dispensaries in our city. It presents too many opportunities for corruption.

I understand why Portage went to the new recycling bins on schedule, but even the smallest bins now available take up too much space in a one car garage. Since the bins are so big, many people in my neighborhood no longer recycle causing the condo complexes garbage bins to overflow.

I walk a lot at night and I have to carry my phone, mace in my hand in order to feel safe at night. It's hard to tell if somebody is hiding or ready to attack you. That seems to be my only comment/concern

I was born and brought up in Massachusetts. I have lived in Portage for over 50 years. Have brought up 5 children here and now have 13 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. They have all attended good Portage schools, have gone on to college and have done very well for themselves. Our neighborhood was family oriented and we never had to worry if they were safe in it. My husband is gone now, but he and I both were active with our kids and I have many family memories of my life here in Portage. It is a great place to live.

I was born in Pawpaw, moved north to Ludington at 14 yrs., and returned at 19 yrs. Portage was farm country when I left, now it's just "Wow"!

I worry about if the school are getting the proper attention, as well as the library.

I would like a rule about lighting off fireworks. My neighborhood is too loud and lit up between June and the end of July.

I would like more involvement and growth. I enjoy the festivals that Kalamazoo had it would be

nice to have similar things in Portage.

I would like regular/more frequent brush pickups; I appreciate and enjoy the summer concert series and would like more

I would like to see pools at the schools which are paid by my taxes, opened up to the public for use either weekly or monthly. This is being done in Plainwell currently and it works out well. A. HS senior who is certified as a life guard is paid to be there during open swim.

I would like to see the City eliminate all of the Boulevards on Centre Street, Portage Road, Shaver Road, Angling Road, and Milham Road as it does not add any value, but is a perpetual maintenance issue throughout the year and the left turn lands are not long enough to allow a safe flow of traffic.

I would like to see the trail system expanded and connected up to Kalamazoo's trails. Also, I think curbside recycling should be every week. Also, as stated earlier, I would like to see housing for the homeless. And again, expand businesses on other roads other than Westnedge. Westnedge is way too crowded already! Lastly, try to make speed limits more uniform on a given road. For example, Lovers Lane changes speed limits four times in a 4-5 mile period. Everywhere, except between Centre and Forrest, it should be 40 mph, not change over and over. There are several roads that are like this, and it needs to be addressed. Also, Westnedge should be at least 40 mph.

I would love to see a splash for kids as well as library drop offs around town

I would rather see turn lanes than boulevards. They may look nice, but they're a pain. Especially for the snow plows. Can't wait for the new school improvements!

I would really like a second pickup for the falls, in other words, fall cleanup.

I'd like to see trash pickup every other week and recycling every week. I'd also like to see sidewalk installed along 12th Street, north of Centre to Romence. Currently, very unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

If the tax rate continues to increase at its current rate, you'll eventually drive me out of Portage!

If you know don't pay someone else to read this. If you're too lazy to read don't ask.

I'm very happy living in Portage. I like the progress being made on the roads and I hope it continues.

I'm very proud to live in the city of portage. It is a beautiful community. "God Bless America"!!

Improve bike/walking areas around Austin Lake - some shoulders missing - evening speeds problem - cars and motorcycles - better streetlights along dark roads.

In general, city of portage is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. The schools are excellent it's a very clean city and we feel very safe in our neighborhoods and homes.

In need of nice facility for farmers market. Invest into infrastructure. Replacement of aging playgrounds in parks.

In our 45+ years in Portage we have been impressed with the way growth has been handled (businesses, homes, service). We have enjoyed the library, concerts in the band hall, PSC, health services available and the schools. It is a fine community with good leadership and services to be proud of. Also, elections are well handled by city hall.

It has been great living in Portage

It is a great place to live. You seem to do everything right.

It is vital we maintain our tax base from business to keep our schools funded and our neighborhoods desirable for our community to stay a place for those of all ethnicities and trades to come and thrive.

It was where I was born. Lived here all my life, raised our family, and look forward to living out our lives here. I love our town.

It would be nice to have a public preschool

It would greatly improve the city image if the Holiday motel at Westnedge and I-94 could be removed. Keep the Ice Rink open! It is great for families and visitors to our city.

It's going to be increasingly important to work with employers/unemployed to get people the education and services (transportation, ESL, certifications, etc.) they need to be employable/employed. Look at model of momentum working with KVCC and the success rate they are having as an example.

Keep planting trees! Concerned about the cost of living here-- taxes and water bill.

Keep revisiting the need for affordable housing for seniors (and others).

Keep the schools as good as they are. Water is expensive, can you reduce the cost? Stricter enforcement of upkeep of rental properties. Better enforcement of ordinances concerning upkeep of homes.

Keep the sidewalks free of broken glass and yard debris

Keep up the great work. The road updates are fantastic. Please issue more speeding tickets to keep speeding down.

Legalize recreational marijuana!

Legalize recreational marihuana

Light at Westnedge and Milham arrow only. Left turn-there are plenty of times no traffic should be all green with caution not just a turn signal. (Same with other intersections) I agree with having [illegible] "House hold junk" PU more than once a year.

Limit welfare apartments and housing. Clean storm sewers more often. Take care of excess turkeys and clean up street after leaf pick ups

Longer light at Monticello & Milham especially on holidays and the light work on Sunday

Look at the possibilities of a city income tax and do away with property tax altogether. Find more private funding for special projects. Stop building Blvd. that cut off access to business and public buildings.

Lots of parks but not many events at the parks.

Love the bike lanes on Milham/Donald, would like to see more of those pop us. I enjoy riding to work and would really enjoy more of those safer bike lanes.

Lower our taxes. Keep skateboards off roads and sidewalks

Lower taxes at least for seniors.

Lower taxes!!!

Make recycling mandatory; Portage Northern High School traffic flow

Making sure people keep their houses up so it will stay a nice, attractive city - if they don't want to keep the house up - don't buy it. Make sure people can afford the home. Landlords who rent out homes should have the same standards.

Mapping location of industrial and commercial establishments to improve tourism and commercial identity.

More city-wide functions (like the tree lighting) or city festival (such as food, music, beer, crafts). It would feel more like a community. These could take place at any of our city parks or at the proposed new senior center. If there is a place such as banquet hall, gymnasium.

More events for middle age people. Lawn mowing of parks and trails needs improvement.

More extensive public transportation (bus) grid. Regular rigorous enforcement of sidewalk snow removal. Business lighting turned down or off at set time in PM. My compliments to city workers and volunteers for keeping city center area always attractive and well maintained!!

More leaf pickup please

More leaf pickups and clean up the blight.

More LEO presence in neighborhoods. Tree trimming, general cleaning of streets, etc.

More people are walking and biking around Portage. Making this safer and more pleasant is important... Especially along major streets and at big intersections. Many drivers are not expecting bikes or pedestrians and crossing lights/walkways need more emphasis and visibility.

More police presence. Having a handicap plate myself I notice there are many that park in handicap parking that are not-- this should be a priority! Tickets should be written. Sidewalk needs to be shoveled on high traffic streets like Westnedge and Centre

More protection for the amount of greenspace in Portage

More restaurants, art, concerts, cultural events! We always go to downtown Kalamazoo. Bring

back taste of Portage!

Moved to my house because of the deer/turkey population. If they are a problem I would be happy to shoot a few. Police need to enforce traffic laws better, especially speeding.

Moving from G.R. in 2001, Portage has been an amazing place for me and my family. As a not yet retired pastor, I know many people who count on transportation resources with the Portage senior center. Likewise many marginally income persons count on community support services so I advocate tax dollars in those areas.

My kids are too old for this but Portage could benefit from a similar program like the Kalamazoo promise. Since the schools here are great and there is a lot of opportunity I think it would bring more growth (people, biz, etc.)

My neighborhood is stable with increasing housing value but as i look at older neighborhoods I see declining interest in house upkeep and improvements. How do we encourage owners to "Care" for the house, improve it.

My only concern, and it is a minor concern, is that I think the fall leaf pickup should be moved later in the season. I still have many leaves to pick up after the final pickup. This has occurred for the past few seasons.

My suggestion was going to be a second "junk" collection. Since you put the question on the survey, no need for suggestion. My kids loved growing up in portage and now that they have left home, miss it and want to come back. Great job running the city!

My wife is a new Girl Scout leader for our granddaughter. Portage schools no longer allows troops to meet in schools after school, and charges a fee for room use. She has had an EXTREMELY difficult time trying to find a troop meeting place. Portage (city and schools) should be encouraging positive activities for kids in our community rather than making it so difficult. A center/building in the Portage area is a must.

My wife who wanted to participate in the beach volleyball could not come up with enough people to play. Could your web site have a single person sign-up so they could be paired with people also interested, that way they could form a team. Thanks. Oh and neighborhood Halloween decoration competition and Christmas lights/decoration competition would be awesome.

Need to increase walkability. Move sidewalks. Get rid of and recycle plastic bags. Great jobs that attract and keep young people in community

Need to upgrade/handle the water issues between the lakes as properties flood frequently

Need to work on paving the roads, though some progress was made this year (thank you)

Neighbor with too many cars and boats. Also collection of junk left outside [Wedgwood Drive address]

New restaurants, banks, credit unions, retail stores, and Stryker - with all this tax revenue, why

aren't my taxes lower? How much money do you really need? It appears you already have too much! Try being more responsible with what you have (like I have to) - quit acting like Washington D.C.!

No AC in older elementary schools. On hot days kids and staff suffer from the heat. There's AC in the main offices and teachers lounges but not in class rooms.

No round-about - Sprinkle road is a travesty. Portage-Kilgore intersection is just stupid. Serious and sensible traffic is sorely needed.

None

None

None at this time.

None at this time. Keep up the great work in Portage, Michigan. As we all will together. For all other cities in southwest Michigan.

None, I love Portage close to highways and it's beautiful.

Not a fan of the boulevards. The crosswalks on Portage Rd near the lakes are useless due to placement.

Not to leave town at mercy of school students to solve deer problem. - Item 19: Regardless of what the town says, the damage to roads from vehicles in higher with higher speed limits. - Town may want to consider getting regular input from 4 quadrants. - Wise use of Portage newspaper beyond seasonal mowing threats. - Parks and trails seem underutilized. - get realistic about mailbox compensation. - Deer crossing signs? - make greater efforts to maintain aging population

Offer water tests. Make water odorless

Our neighbors and we are concerned with the base fee of water. You want the yards to look nice but when the base fee is \$120 or more before you use water, it is ridiculous. One family of 4 that includes 2 little kids who don't shower every day and our water bill is \$600. That's uncalled for.

Our street: Connecticut Dr. is in horrible condition and just gets patched all of the time - We were told in 2007 that we were going to get a new street in 2009. And have been told different stories every year since while other streets get done. We think we got street, curbs and gutters in the late 70s. Why?

Overall great job! Traffic lights don't always sense cross traffic and so we run them at times.

Overall A+ community to live in. More sidewalks!

Overall great community, very happy to live in the area! Great schools! I do worry about drugs and high taxes! I do not think it's a good place to retire due to high taxes, plan to move when kids are done with school unfortunately

Overall I believe the city does a great a job. I would like the see the city be a little nice to small business with regulations. The big mystery was why wasn't Menard's able to redo the building they left? It is still empty. Help support business that pay taxes.

Overall I love living in Portage. I live near Ramona Park, I hope they keep the woods that surround the park, and I think it adds to the nature and lake. Gray Street by the park has poor road conditions, would be good to look at fixing that.

Overall, a great place to live

Overall, I'm very happy living in Portage and raising my children here. I'm also very pleased with the increase in local and independently-owned businesses.

Parking for wheelchair at Stuart Manor

Pet crap on roadsides and lawns. Barking dogs!

Plan the growth of city with adequate infrastructure (roads, signals, traffic flow, water, fiber optics and cell towers, snow removal and leaf pick-up, and public safety [police and fire])

Please allow for a deer cull in the city of Portage

Please bring more unique stores and eateries to the city!

Please consider doing mosquito control applications on all trails and bike trails. Most trails (other than Celery Flats) are unbearable due to mosquitos in summer months

Please consider stoplights on Westnedge. Keep up the good work! Please keep an eye on infrastructure.

Please dont allow too many more plazas. I think we have close to enough of those. Portage has some beautiful parks and bikeways. Please keep those maintained and even expanded

Please fix the traffic problem with lights and exits and side streets on Centre Ave. bridge and exits from 131. That would really help traffic flow, because I do illegal U-turns all the time there.

Please fix timing or position of car sensor for west bound Milham/Oakland traffic signal. You sit at the light for 3 cycles before being able to drive westbound on Milham.

Please keep bike lane plowed. We need MORE bike lanes.

Please make the parks and bike trails nonsmoking. Many children use these facilities and deserve clean healthy air!

Please stop clear cutting greenspaces to build establishments we do not need and already have! These areas are what give Portage its beauty and it's a shame they are sold for "progress" and profit.

Please train all police officers to not jump to conclusions. See Proverbs 18:13 and 18:17.

Please work on clearing out and staying on top of street gutters. They overflow when it rains.

Other than that, our family loves living in Portage.

Plumbing inspector is sub-qualified

Police and Fire dept. are the best!

Poor cleaning of streets after leaf +brush pickups. No cleaning of street drains

Portage had been and continues to be a great city. Please keep up with infrastructure with population growth. Getting to be a hassle going anywhere. Portage needs some live entertainment venues, currently all in Kalamazoo.

Portage is a beautiful city in every way. I would not care to move.

Portage is a nice community. I hope it can still keep the feel of a small city with the big city amenities. Also, keep it a good community to make a family. Maybe do more family type activities to keep families involved so we keep that small town, family knit, neighborly vibe! Thank you.

Portage is a wonderful city and a great place to raise a family.

Portage is a wonderful community. Thank you.

Portage is exceptional in its daily operations. We have a diverse population and for the most part a safe environment to live in. Our police and fire fighters work hard and I'd hope to believe most of our citizens respect them both. There is however way too many vacant businesses, strip malls. I feel portage has made some very bad choices in letting in Dicks Sporting at the expense of Gander Mt, MC sporting goods

Portage needs a testing facility like the SPOH lab for testing cannabis.

Problems that need to be looked at seriously: 1. Fireworks - major hazard. 2. Fire pits - major nuisance. Often can't open windows on a nice evening! 3. Noise - traffic noise, many more cars with window-rattling bass, barking dogs in probably 10-20% of homes. 4. Irresponsible pet owners not cleaning up in neighborhoods and city paths. 5. Unsafe/distracted driving. 6. Proactive city inspectors needed to walk neighborhoods to check on issues.

Property taxes are high - please do not add more services that can be provided by private entities.

Putting as many powerlines underground as possible would help reduce the danger and expense of trees falling on them in storms.

Question 12 and 13: support for "marihuana" based in part on assumption that other local communities will have dispensaries... but if no other local cities are supporting, then I would not want Portage to be only city that allows. No questions here about chicken coops but would note that we hate that city has allowed this and would support change to reduce chickens.

Questionnaire does not clearly designed to cover needs assessment of Portage residents. Survey does not justify the professionalism of WMU Kercher Center. If only city employee or elected person helped to design this survey, then it is not a valid survey and is only to satisfy city

employees or elected officials. Why there are no questions to evaluate the performance and accountability of city employees or elected officials.

Re: 23, 31-33: Because there is increasingly more crime in Portage, neighborhoods and quality of life are deteriorating. Taxes are very high! Re: 19 - When removing snow, plows tear up my lawn.

Really miss music in the park. I ride my bike to do my grocery shopping and would really appreciate side walk all the way to Meijer. Love our town!

Recommend barriers not be used on the 4th of July to make it impossible to get to the east side of Shaver on Centre.

Return envelopes that this survey will actually fit in

Review budget spending and focus on areas for efficiencies to reduce taxes

Road construction was rough this summer! Portage @ Mandigo, Angling Road, Shaver Road - a lot all at once!

Rush hour traffic

Scherer Park trails lack upkeep. The trail around the wooded part of the park is not kept up well at all.

School system is very good. The landscaping is really pretty and creative by the library. Patrol the trails so women feel safe using the trails

Separate bike traffic and vehicle. Promote use of the trail systems we have rather than public roadways. There are accidents "waiting" to happen. Street sweeping frequency would also be appreciated. Very happy with the quality of water and sewer work to keep our taxes down / afterschool millage

Since I have received mail through USPS from 2 people running for Portage public office. I wonder if they have access to the city database. Maybe they just looked at an online directory? I hope the city of portage does not give people access to our addresses

Slow drivers down on Portage Road and all roads in Portage! The City of Portage is a very good place to live - keep up the good work.

Slowing people down in the residential areas where the speed limits are 25mph. I watch people all the time driving way too fast.

Snow plowing the outer streets of portage like 12th is one of my corners, it never gets done till. I also suggest any family that has kids in Portage should pay a school fee, if that family doesn't pay property taxes. Improvements of school should be shared for anyone that uses that schools, cost.

Snow plows throw all the snow at the end of my drive way blocking me in + forcing me to have to "plow" that crap AGAIN! Get help for the BUMS!!! Get them off the streets! Demo the trailer parks and low income housing. Or at least clean it/them up. Eliminate all the sex offenders. Need

more sidewalks so my kids can ride bikes and I can walk my dog. Please =)

Snow removal is frequently insufficient at the bend in a road. Living on the outside of the corner, snow plows frequently cut the corner forcing me to clear a significant amount of street so that I can exit my driveway.

Snow removal is poor

Snow Removal- It can take 2-3 days before we see a plow truck, and up to a week for snow removal on the cul-de-sac. That's too long. Kalamazoo does a fantastic job. Model yourself after them.

Snow removal on the side streets.

Snow Removal- This is one service that is second rate. Sometimes we wait 3-4 days for our neighborhood to be plowed. We live in the Amberly neighborhood and if we wait that long service in other areas is also poor. This is one of the few areas where the city of Kalamazoo SMOKES us! Did I say that snow removal is BAD. You shouldn't need a 4x4 to get out of a portage neighborhood 3 days after a snow storm. Come on!

So far, it seems the people elected have really cared about Portage and the people. They have good ideas. I hope and pray this continues. Keep it simple!

Some of the properties in my neighborhood (Mapleview/Sugarloaf area) are not being kept up. Additionally, there are too many cars in driveways and front yards. This needs to be investigated and addressed. It's reducing property values.

Some paving strategies seem odd - i.e., Oakland Drive - middle lane not repaved, looks junky.

Some streets need more street lighting (older plats)

Some traffic lights on Westnedge are not synched with traffic flow in the early morning IE Andy Ave +Westnedge

Something needs to be done about water/sewer expenses and quality. Portage needs to negotiate lower cost from Kalamazoo.

Sometimes traffic lights do not cycle through in all directions, so you have sit through it a few times before you can go. I've noticed this mainly at Lovers and Centre, also Portage and Centre later in the evening.

Speeders in Shannon-Dale neighborhoods should be better policed as well as stopping at intersections. Lots of children in the neighborhood. Police should sit in neighborhood. Police should sit in neighborhood after high school lets out (1st 3 blocks off Milham) and off onto feeder street (Evergreen) at 5:00 pm.

Speeding on Oakland from Kilgore South... Westnedge

State game area is not properly patrolled, at times gun fire is rampant, with little or no response from Portage pd. Underage drinking happens weekly, no parental supervision. Centre Ave in the

morning and 3-3:30 hour is dangerous, no police presence. Erratic driving is rampant

Stay forward thinking about short and long term goals. Coordinate structural sewer repairs so we are not wasting money and treat the city as it were your house! Who and how would you want that to look 10 years from now.

Stop raising taxes. Continue to maintain the "trees" as our name states. City of trees not buildings

Stop sending these fucking surveys and don't call me either. You just wasted 1/2 hr. of my time don't try it again. Next one will come to you after i run it thru my paper shredder

Stop signs that flash are good. Trees hanging over roads need to be trimmed. Do something with police attitude, could be better. Do away with boulevards in roads, they are dangerous.

Stop speeders; stop red light running

Streets in disrepair; Portage Pathway grounds by Milham Meadows neglected. Lots of nice parks.

Synchronize traffic lights on Westnedge (set for 35 mph).

Taxes are going higher and the quality of services provided are less. Unacceptable.

Thank you for adding extra lights at Centre Street. I travel this daily and work at one of the new lights intersection. There have been too many accidents there.

Thank you for how the residents are serviced with our taxes. Strong bonding with city gov. and our public schools makes this a great city to live in.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Thank you for working to improve our town. Additional trash pickup would be lovely!!

Thank you Portage for giving me a place to call home this past year - I'll miss you. And will miss living here :)

Thank you! I love living and raising my family here!

Thanks for keeping the roads in good condition - I am disappointed in the new Angling construction - the bike lanes are/seem smaller. Thanks for keeping the parks in good condition.

Thanks for your service. Since I don't drive and have no sense of direction this is the best I can do! I use a walker and a cane. The fire alarm goes off frequently when I boil water. It's embarrassing and shouldn't happen. Even with the vent on. Others notice. I hope our water is checked daily. So far what comes from my tap is clear but is it clean?

Thanks to the mayor, city manager, public officials, city council, et al., for a good job!

The access on Long Lake need more work. The shore at kayak entering spots has ruts so deep, I fell in one when rain water had filled it, a child would have been under water. Not safe. The shore is eroding to driveway.

The city must take into consideration of walkers, joggers on the pathway of Celery Flats and Bicentennial. Bikes endanger lives. No signs or speedbumps that will slow down speeds. Cyclists have no respect for pedestrians using trails. The city should also enforce bikes to have lights and wear high visibility clothes. Bikes are often lost in the shadows, this will increase safety. Police patrols needed for speeding on Kingston between Centre and garden lane.

The city of Portage has always offered the best in diversity/economics/education, etc. to its residents. I moved to Portage with my family in 1960, left for 5 years and couldn't wait to move back. Thank you City of Portage for your overall commitment to serving all residents.

The city of Portage is a beautiful city with beautiful homes, roads, and lakes. The main attraction to new families into Portage is the remarkable schooling. Secondly, plan and establish more institutions that give career to the talent pool in the city itself. The schools generate amazing talent - what has the city got to do to absorb this talent? Finally, could we establish a train station in Portage and get connected to Lansing, Grand Rapids, Detroit, or Chicago. This public transportation will lead to more revenues to city and ease on traffic of roads. Improve the airline services. We have to scale up the airport to at least get flights from or to popular cities of the USA. More business units also bring revenue. We need to attract technology companies to set up here as that gives a great opportunity for the local talent to get hired into the information technology sector or biotechnology sector or any manufacturing company. May the communities unite and support the betterment of this city. Thanks and regards.

The corruption is on a level with Chicago, New Orleans, and Las Vegas. City workers break the law, steal, then get paid to quit? Taxes are way too high. The waste goes on and on. City workers are rude, incompetent and dishonest. Roundabouts? Most stupid idea ever and will waste more money. Portage Road 2-lanes? Stupid and more waste. Drainage ponds? Stupid and kids will drown in them someday. Celery Flats? Stupid idea to begin with, of course a total waste of money. Now, going to tear it down and build more crap no one will use. Boulevards? Stupid idea. The pavement is awful bit it is a Boulevard? Take care of the roads first. Before making a crappy road look better. Tree limbs over the sidewalk, 12 feet? City sends out notices but has all kinds of tree limbs less than 12 feet on city property sidewalks. When told to city worker, they just laugh. The city can be as corrupt as they want. Eminent domain? City railroads Pizza [illegible] to make stupid useless park. Through city corruption they were not notified until it was too late to fight. They should have been paid enough to stay on Westnedge. City mails me a letter that I am getting a survey, mails survey, then mails a reminder. Two wasted mailings. The waste and corruption for the city of Portage is endless.

The curve on Angling Road, just south of Centre street intersection needs a boardwalk to bypass it. It is dangerous for walkers and runners!

The fee to join Senior Services is too high. The people paid for this we should be able to use it at a reasonable cost!! Working with the lower income people needs to be addressed, it makes everything look better, makes you feel better which adds to the wellbeing and attitude of Portage residents.

The mayor pro-tem should be the second highest vote getter in elections.

The noise level is high at Milham Meadows. Kids come in and out front locked doors slamming them leaving garbage in hallways. Walls are thin can hear kids banging around both back side and upper side of apartment. Cannot hear T.V. in living room - no noise control. Too much time spent in apartment for unusual [illegible] inspections. For full week at a time [illegible] limited to 1 to 2 days at a time then reschedule - not a week of [illegible] entry. Cars parked too close together - my car scratched with keys - knives - backed into - no answers, no carports available - no security. No home safety - people can climb through air conditioning wall hole spaces and can open storage doors with knives - loud music slamming of in and outside doors supposed to be locked. Manager rude and uncooperative.

The only thing I would recommend is taking those walkway/boulevard dividers out of Portage road. There is no use for them, just a hazard

The portage road business climate seems to be suffering from issues with construction on the road. From center street south we have lost 4 business buildings are becoming an eye sore to the street

The recreation program are a fun idea, but past ones have been underwhelming. The 2016 fall program and 2017 fish festival at Schrier and Ramona Park had huge turn out with little to no activities to handle the crowd.

The Senior Center doesn't have enough things for older people to do. The City of Portage needs more activities in the summer for older people or adults, bands, more at the Shetter. I go to Ramona Park to swim and picnic and this year 3 cars parked over behind the parking attendant and walked right in free. I had a season pass, but this isn't right or fair. Moorsbridge Road either needs a "bump" in the road or a cop waiting up at the school (West) because the cars go about 80.

The snow plows drive WAY TOO FAST in the small neighborhoods. They go over 40 mph between stop signs.

The speed on south Westnedge and traffic jam at the school in the morning and afternoon. "Middle school only" cars line up to my house. I should not have to go out of my way to go to work. Because of the cars I cannot get out of driveway. This is BS

The use of marijuana has no place in Portage

The water in south portage. It is dirty, rusty, etc. We have called city hall a number of times. The only response is, "Well, you live in south portage, there's nothing we can do. But EVERY YEAR you raise the water rates. No service!

There is a perception that police focus on traffic enforcement and not crime prevention.

There needs to be more street lighting on residential streets - I live on Ludington Ave and at dark it is totally dark - street lights sometimes do not come on and/or not enough of them.

This is a great idea--do you post any online web-based surveys? Expected other info questions like planning/ zoning/ school district/ sustainability. Use more comments in sections.

Thrilled the mayor is not running again. Time for new leadership. I will be supporting Randall.

Ticketing speeders and reckless drivers

Time demands we always move forward. May Portage do the same. It is what you do!

Too many bars, constant drunk driving accidents. With legalizing drugs and added bars, illegal drugs are killing people more than ever. In my opinion, endorsing more bars and breweries while drunk driving and illegal drugs escalate is the cause. Making marijuana legal opens the door to heroin, LSD, opioids and any other drugs illegal or legal.

Too many people disregard pet leash law. More street sweeping-sewer grates are clogging up in my neighborhood. Empty properties at Oosterhout and Rolling Hill are a blight. I worry that Portage will be PC and become a sanctuary city.

Traffic and long wait time traffic lights.

Traffic flow

Traffic flows well on Westnedge but light for Kilgore, Milburn and Romence take too long for these streets and traffic backs up. As the city grows older, so will neighborhoods. Need to stay on top of trash and junk on residential properties. Community is growing older (baby boomers turning 65) so an effort should be made to increase the size and staff of the senior center. Bring in Marijuana dispensaries and I am gone.

Traffic gets [illegible] with more people moving into our community, and I'm worried about people getting impatient x [illegible].

Traffic signals are functioning better but some improvements still needed. Traffic speeding and not yielding to pedestrians are issues.

Traffic; more police stops for running red lights. This is becoming the "norm" and extremely dangerous @ all intersections

Treat everyone with a Portage address the same. I and other friends live in 49002 zip code and get no services like pickup household, leaf, county services. Don't have Portage address go to Vicksburg schools, Schoolcraft taxes work with other areas and figure this out. Kzoo Township go to Portage and Mattawan schools. They are bused... build their own schools and bus to them... Why do we support this? Change to Portage address and pay taxes, water etc. to Portage. It's been long enough. We are bigger and stronger community.

Use our tax dollars wisely. Don't spend more than we have. Keep us in the black.

Very disappointed in the city police department. My neighbor has been burglarized 3 times and there was no follow up. I can understand why the city doesn't publish crime statistics-- I don't think you solve many of the crimes. My house is for sale and I'm moving out of Portage ASAP. You can have fluff programs like leaf pick up and spring cleanup, but if someone doesn't feel safe in their home= that REALLY matters!

Very happy to live in Portage all my life!

Want to ensure that our schools are top notch to encourage families to want to live in Portage vs. neighboring communities.

Want to thank Pete [illegible] for his service.

Water and sewer costs are expensive compared to other areas

Water is too expensive.

Water/ sewer costs are too high. Not enough police officers to provide traffic regulations, enforcement and crime prevention. I feel the city is providing too much money and resources to special interests groups and entitlement programs to the detriment of police/fire and infrastructure management.

We are ready to move out of Portage to somewhere where people are not allowed to park Travel Trailers, motor homes, boat trailers. Our street is full of all the above. If our neighborhoods want recreational toys. They should be required to park them elsewhere at least during the Winter Months when not in use.

We enjoy living in Portage and feel government has done a good job to date. We need to continue to focus on state of the art education for all and employ technology to manage our community. As we grow and enhance our city we also need to work hard to protect nature and wildlife. The environment we live in is critically important for all

We have a great community. It has a small town feeling with all the growth coming I am hoping it stays that way!

We have lived in Galesburg, Delton, Vicksburg, and Richland and now we have lived on Long Lake since Aug. 2014. I feel the city is very well looked after, and we really like where we live now. No concerns or suggestions

We have many nice amenities in Portage, all of which cost tax payer funds. I ask that city government not lose sight of the fact that many home owners no longer have a paying income and tax increases are a problem. We have one of the highest tax base in the area. Taxes are a big issue for many people.

We love it here!

We love living here! It's a wonderful city!

We love living in Portage and are glad we chose to move here!

We love Portage. There is so much to do and see. Beautiful trails and amazing programs throughout the year

We need a way to recycle foam like packing food trays etc.

We need better stores (Loft Jcnew / Ann Taylor) in the mall and better restaurants like PF Changs

and Yolk

We need more noise control on the lakes. The use of [illegible] and loudspeakers on boats destroys the tranquility for all home owners. ATUs are also a significant problem.

We pay a lot of money for taxes and the roads aren't great. Portage needs to do more within the roads. I have pot holes at the end of my driveway that need to get filled.

We really need a traffic light at Brookwood and Centre. Takes four to five minutes to get on Centre. Many homes that use this exit.

We recently moved within Portage but the taxes and fees made other surrounding communities more attractive to us as we searched.

We will be facing a situation where formerly rural areas like Texas Township will receive most of the younger families, so Portage will get older and probably less affluent. A "cool city" concept will help retain a trust of families. [illegible] great schools will help.

We would like to see a no kill shelter for cats and dogs like the other towns have, as well as working with Kalamazoo's pound to become a no kill shelter as well. So sad to see all those faces knowing they'll never get a chance. Please, we speak for those who cannot. Our neighborhood had streets repaved last year and within a few months cracking all over all the neighborhood streets. We understand this is a multibillion dollar project, so surprised to see the application of the streets didn't hold up.

We would like to see boat slips added to the Austin Lake shore at Lakeview Park. It'd be great to be able to tie up our boat and play/walk around at Lakeview Park. We would like to access West Lake from Austin Lake in a pontoon/speed boat.

We would love some type of downtown space. We also would like to see the trails connect so that little ones don't have to ride along the road, i.e., trail along Osterhout.

Website giving notice of road closures for running and bike events. Even when events don't use roads, events like West Michigan Invitational at West Middle create traffic.

Where I live off Ambly and Romence the traffic goes way too fast in the neighborhood to the schools. The school busses are bad they drive too fast and do not stop at the stop signs most days, or cut the corner and steer up into my yard. They need to be watched better. Kids are waiting as well as others.

Why can't the Portage police patrol the roads and ticket speeders? Isn't that their job? : Look at all the money that could be brought in, it's like an ATM machine out there. A lot of jerks should be fined, ticketed, receive points on their license, and see their insurance premiums go up. It's all good. The roads would be safer, lives might be saved. Also a good chance to look for alcohol, drugs, weapons, and outstanding warrants!

Why is Kalamazoo's city water so much better tasting and lacking rust/iron? Is there a good reason why this cannot be remedied?

With mayor Strazdas leaving I worry about a lack of common sense on the council

With the 2 new condo developments south of Centre on Oakland, the streets/light at Oakland and Centre needs to be proactive to accommodate all the residents and construction vehicles. Road at light widened? Etc...

With the continuous and future growth of the city, I hope we can continue to maintain the solid foundation of parks and proper land management without sacrificing the natural beauty of the surrounding areas.

Work with owners of empty buildings to return their use, without building new.

Would like to see bike lanes in Romence west of Oakland widened. Also need a wider sidewalk on Centre between Westnedge and Oakland that can accommodate bikes.

Would like to see more activities for little kids during the summer.

Would like to see something done to improve nursing homes. Care is terrible!

Would like to see traffic slowed down more on Constitution Blvd Many elderly in our building cross to shop at Crossroads Mall and without a light it is very dangerous

Would love to see the dog park reopen.

YAC is a wonderful program to introduce students to government, as well as allow opportunity to participate. Open school board meetings and participation in new school plan was wonderful.

Years ago all neighborhoods had the same city rules/laws to live by - that has changed. If you live in whatever the city considers a "better" neighborhood, people cannot park cars on their lawns. I know from friends that this is true. Also people who want to run businesses from their homes should not be allowed to take over street parking in front of their neighbors' houses or make noise beyond regular household chores.

Years ago when we first came to Portage, city water was not available. It's now very expensive to hook up. Why does it cost so much? Give people a break!

You ask about deer but nothing is mentioned about the huge Coyote problem! When is that going to be addressed? I'm on a fixed income and taxes keep increasing, water keeps increasing, you are pushing seniors out with all the fees!

You asked no questions about council members and how they're doing their jobs. Also nothing about the company who controls your whole utility bill. One suggestion-- use funds from the 3rd leaf pick up (which is un-needed) and put them towards a second junk pickup.

You do a great job!

You should bring back the Shnier Park Haunted Forest

You waste money. Fire department. Crosswalks are a joke (Portage Road by [illegible]). Get metro buses out of Portage. Keep the trash in Kzoo.

2017 Portage Community Survey (Web)
Responses to Open-ended Questions

4. If you feel there is a problem with the deer population within the Portage City Limits, which of the following identifies your concerns? [Other – specify]

A lot of near accidents when they dart across the road

All of above

All of the above

All of the above

All of the above

All of the above

All of the above

All of the above!

All of the above, survey wouldn't let me select all of the above

All of the above. It would not let me select all of them

Both A and B. Last week one literally ran into the side of my car on Constitution Blvd.!

Checking all doesn't work. All of the above

I have not had issues, but I see a lot of dead deer

I would check all 3 if I could the main one being deer / vehicle collisions

Over population

Program would not let me pick all of the above

Risk of vehicle collisions; show up in neighborhoods

Too populous, starvation, disease

Won't let me chose more than one. I select the first two.

Wouldn't let me check all of the above

You asked for all that apply yet only allow one choice, all 3 for me

10. If you have city water, is there a problem with the quality of the drinking water? [Yes, severe problem – specify]

DO NOT KNOW water quality for my house!!

Fill of rust, floated and smells like Sulphur

Fluoride is a neurotoxin that should NOT be added to the water. It is medication without consent, plus it costs the city \$ that could be used more effectively elsewhere, instead of poisoning our residents. I had severe health issues directly attributed to too much fluoride in my body.

Fluoride. It's toxic. Save money. Stop using it.

Have a water softener but doesn't do enough to get iron out and water taste horrible. Water always leaves a slime ring on toilets etc.

High levels of particulate matter

Horribly rusty

It doesn't taste all that great.

Minerals in auto, having to replace hot water tank every 3 years. If gone for a week, water smells like sulfur.

Pressure, cleanliness

Rust in the system when flushing the lines comes into the house supply

Rust not related to hydrant flushing

Sporadically high iron levels in the water.

The water turns brown every so often for a couple days and the city never provides notice or explanation to residents as to why this happening. I have a young child who takes baths and the water looks disgusting so I am not able to bathe my child.

Usually it is great, for a week or so over Labor Day weekend, my water had a noticeable solvent odor (like THF used in PVC piping connections) and was undrinkable. It has since returned to normal.

21. If you have had any direct contact with Portage city employees over the past year, how satisfied were you with the quality of service received from the employee? [Very dissatisfied – specify]

Clerical personnel are very friendly but people within the departments seem to be rude and act like you are bothering them with your problems.

I left a message for one person and never received a call back

It's been 1 yr. but never had a chance for feedback, poor treatment & communication from city inspector while building our house.

They never followed through!

Unapproachable and need coaching in dealing with public interaction

25. Do you think you are getting good services for your city tax dollars? [No – specify]

City hall staff could be friendly, more helpful

Education system is not cost effective

Excessive amounts goes to education with the teachers continuing to complain about their benefits

Government Too Big

I feel the flat rates charged for city water and city sewer are too high given the high taxes. The "per 1,000 gallon" rates are reasonable.

I have 3 children so investing in the schools is a big deal but why does so much go into building all of these new stadiums and rebuilding a high school that was not that old in the first place. Perhaps investing in the staff that works there and the programs and technology provided would be better use of those monies rather than a big flashy building. Or you could just put more boulevards all over the damn place.

I think there may be frivolous or not needed spending in some areas

Leaf or brush pick up always leave a giant mess in the street and the street sweeper doesn't come by afterwards. Need better quality of snow removal. Streets need repair. Retention pond up keep needs to be improved (weeds!)

My child's school falls short in supporting advanced learner

My house is located on acreage that can't connect to city water/sewer/gas and means I have no need for some services (like leaf/brush pickup)

NOT satisfied with snow removal. Roads not cleared sufficiently frequently (and I live right near a school). And I have had my mailbox destroyed twice - 2nd time, I got the very UGLY free replacement from the city. That ugly mailbox is showing up all over the place and it just makes the neighborhood look bad. And the snowplows go too fast for conditions. One time they struck my mailbox and sent the box flying about 20 feet. This is dangerous.

Our neighborhood streets need resurfacing for at least two years. Hollywood neighborhood, Portage.

Projects are begun, but not completed. Orange cones in three areas on Constitution Boulevard with uncompleted work. One torn up section and Boulevard has been this way since early spring. Please put my tax dollars to work and have someone fix this.

Property taxes are too high

Property taxes spiked \$800 I think city hall processed something wrong

Road conditions

Some street projects are excessive; e.g. brick pavers on street corners. Use of islands on Portage road.

Street repair or replace

Taxes are too high on Austin Lake

Taxes higher than prior city I lived in, with no difference in services.

The amount we pay in taxes, the streets could be better.

The emergency warning program is not utilized especially by the police dept.

There are services not available to condo plats.

There is a city tax?

Too long of a wait on Leadwood St. to have snow plowed. On heavy snow days often get plowed 2 days later, cannot get out of subdivision!

Too much duplication of road work over the years

Water pressure in my neighborhood is very bad

We expect a lot more for the high property tax.

We pay a lot of tax dollars for snow removal, police protection - etc. Snow removal is terrible in the subdivision especially around school areas. It also seems that you hardly see police patrolling in areas. A lot of homeless people at the public library hanging out on computers all day and out front of the building.

26. How do you *currently* obtain information about what is going on in Portage city government? [Other – specify]

Direct contact with friends and relatives

Friends & Library

Library

Neighborhood conversation, portage city app

Neighbors

News letter from realtors

Posting at the parks

[reddit.com/r/kzoo](https://www.reddit.com/r/kzoo)

27. What is your *preferred* method of obtaining information about what is going on in Portage city government? [Other – specify]

Direct contact with friends and relatives

Email

Email Newsletter would be great

Email version of the Portager would be preferred

Emails

Text alerts

Through mail

30. Is there a problem with the condition of homes and yards in your neighborhood? [Yes, severe problem – specify]

A few neighbors always have junk/toys/unused cars all over their yard and it's an eye sore.

Broken down cars allowed to sit out in driveway for over a year.

Construction equipment behind our property not nice to look at or smell

Do not like the fact that my backyard is shared with a foreclosed home on Bacon. This is going on for over 3 years now.

Not mowing and taking care of leaves. Also, not trimming dead tree limbs

One house with obvious hoarding problem.

Pine trees that have overgrown sidewalk, not allowing free access. Not shoveling walks in the winter.

Siding/Roof in poor condition. Too many cars. Abandoned homes (up for sale though)

Streets have not been resurfaced in years.

Weeds growing in street

You see people keep boats, campers and other junk in there yards and there is a city ordinance of some of these things but not enforced. People keep these items in their driveways and yards but never remove them. Make people who keep their homes and yards looking nice a little upset.

35. Is there a problem with the flow of traffic on any Portage streets other than South Westnedge Avenue? [Yes – specify]

Any areas where Oakland Drive goes down to 1 lane

Becoming very difficult to get out of the Amberly neighborhood. Almost impossible to turn right onto Milham in the mornings. Milham has too much traffic.

Center at Westnedge

Center Ave-Oakland to 131

Center St

Center St

Center street near the high school and 131/12 th streets

Center Street. Better since lights were installed.

Center, Oakland

Centre

Centre

Centre & Shaver

Centre and Shaver

Centre Ave

Centre Ave when under construction

Centre Ave.

Centre Ave.

Centre Avenue

Centre Road traffic volume has increased

Centre St.

Centre St., Oakland Dr.

Centre Street

Centre, especially near 131 at rush hour

Centre, Shaver

Concerned about Portage Rd, Road diet, etc. It carries a lot of traffic THRU Portage.

Entering Portage Rd (going North) from Osterhout during morning rush; more & more traffic from Vicksburg

I think it is a dangerous when you're approaching Shaver Rd heading east on Centre St. The lanes shift and often the left lane drivers continue straight on into the right lane traffic and aren't

minding the broken line that shows the shift in the road. I often drive that direction heading home and have had MULTIPLE drivers almost side swipe me because they drive into my lane. I don't think that the broken lines indicating the lane shift are obvious enough to drivers.

In front of Portage Central Middle school. Parent dropping off students and causing traffic to back up.

Kilgore

Meredith St has tons of speeders and additional stop signs or speed humps desperately need to be installed

Milham

Milham @ Oakland Dr. between 3 to 6 pm

Milham and Oakland can get jammed up during the school year.

Milham and Westnedge Intersection

Milham, Oakland, Centre (too many stop lights, a stoplight every quarter mile interferes with the flow of traffic, especially when the lights aren't timed to coordinate efficient flow i.e. getting a red light at the next intersection when the previous intersection had just turned green)

Milham. With the business across street from copperleaf neighborhood it makes it hard and dangerous at times to turn in and out of neighborhood.

Milham/Oakland Intersection

No problem and Westnedge are other streets, there's just a lot of traffic!

North bound Portage Road from the airport to I-94

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland

Oakland Drive

Oakland and Millham is a HUGE problem

Oakland at 5 o'clock

Oakland Dr

Oakland Dr
Oakland Dr and Milham between 4 and 6
Oakland Dr south of Milham gets pretty congested
Oakland Dr, Milham
Oakland Dr, milham
Oakland Dr., West Center is getting better with the stop lights recently installed
Oakland Drive
Oakland Drive
Oakland Drive
Oakland drive
Oakland Drive
Oakland drive
Oakland drive
Oakland drive
Oakland Drive and Milham Road Intersection
Oakland Drive!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Oakland Drive, just south of Milham where southbound traffic goes from 2 to 1 lane.
Oakland Drive, Shaver & Melody intersection.
Oakland Drive/ Milldam Ave.
Oakland is bad all the time. Romence road (from Oakland to Westnedge) becomes a nightmare between the hours of 0745-0830 & 1700-1815
Oakland near I94, Oakland and Centre
Oakland north of Milham
Oakland south of Centre
Oakland, Centre
Oakland, Milham, Centre
Oakland, north/south traffic light timing
Only when Road construction does heavy use streets concurrently or all N/S bound or E/W bound concurrently. Angling and Shaver took way too long

Portage and I-9/Kilgore

Portage by air view. Timing of lights is terrible.

Portage rd. Centre St. Milham Rd.

Portage Road by the lakes

Portage Road. I commute up Portage Road to I-94 and the lights don't appear to be timed together. It would be nice if once you got moving and did the speed limit, you wouldn't be stopped (because the lights would be timed just so).

Portage Road/Street Construction

Romance near Oakland and Moorsbridge

Romence Road at Centre

Rush hour traffic at Oakland and Milham, and Oakland and Romence.

Shaver

Shaver, Westnedge, Centre triangle!!!!

Shaver/Centre

Sit at lights too long

South shore drive

Speed Winters Drive

Speeders and failing to stop on residential streets and especially on Portage Rd school zone and business district and Sprinkle Rd Industrial district

Sprinkle

Sprinkle Rd south of Zylman gets pretty congested at times, would be nice if it were widened

Squeezing down Portage Road

The left turn light from Angling to Centre going East does not detect vehicle

Traffic light at Centre Ave & Lovers Lane

traffic light at Milham/Oakland going westbound, the light does not stay green long enough for 5PM traffic causing backups, only 7 cars allowed though at each cycle.

Vincent - Sunday only

Waiting to see flow of traffic on Portage Road in the Lake Center area

Westnedge at Melody - needs traffic light

Yes, Portage Rd from Centre through Bacon. It is absolutely asinine to reduce the traffic lanes, it takes forever to drive through there now with 4 lanes.

41. In general, what do you feel are the best two features of Portage?

"Ease" of lifestyle; mostly friendly people

#1.The recreation areas are very nice. #2.The Library is also very nice.

1) Parks and trails throughout the city. 2) Relationship between police and other emergency personnel and the citizens of Portage.

1) Parks and trails. 2) Library

1) Strong efforts to improve the city, 2) Christmas tree lighting and memorial day parade.

1. The lakes 2. Low number of mailers where you ask people to type in the URL into the browser...seriously, get onboard with public marketing and start sending emails to people that live in the zip code. A piece of paper with a URL is kind of archaic.

Access to businesses, great public safety services

Access to government and access to public services like the community events, parks and library

Accessibility and cleanliness

Accessibility to businesses and schools

Adequate school system, feels fairly safe to live here

Availability of shopping and resources

Beautiful and friendly

Bike Path and schools

Bike paths

Bike paths and public parks

Bike paths, general road condition/infrastructure

Bike paths, parks

Bike paths/trails, schools

Bike trails and parks

Bike trails, curbside recycling

Bike trails, parks

Bike/walking trails and parks
Celery Flats Park and Restaurants
Celery flats, Library
Central location and bike trails
City conditions, Community events
City Employees; Police protection
City Parks and Schools.
City parks with pickle ball courts
City Staff and the many parks and bikeways
Clean & Safe
Clean and groomed areas ...feel safe in area.
Clean city and good police and fire protection
Clean repaired roads, parks and recreations
Clean, generally safe
Clean, safe neighborhoods. Good schools.
Cleanliness, Services for our Tax dollars!
Cleanliness and Nature /Parks
Cleanliness and road conditions
Cleanliness of most neighborhoods - availability of a variety of shops and stores.
Close to venues clean and quite
Community and safety
Community, trails and park
Continual upgrading of traffic lights/ continual upgrades of traffic lights/intersections. Strong neighborhood.
Diverse activities and parks
Easy access to resources, shopping, restaurants, schools. Roads are in great shape. And the general condition of neighborhoods is excellent.
Excellent schools and concern for the environment
Feel of a small city but with the amenities of a larger city, trail system

General quality of life. Resources, mobility, accessibility

Good mix of residential/commercial, parks and bike trails

Good road conditions and minimal crime

Good school system, and safe.

Good services and opportunities for outdoor activities

Great neighborhoods. Access to freeways and shopping.

Great place to raise a family Good sense of community

Great schools and fabulous parks

Great schools and low crime

Great schools, quality of life (access to restaurants/shops/culture/parks)

Green spaces and good neighborhoods

Have a majority of all the major retailers, stop making it hard for people to meet the demand of the major retailers. These new businesses only want to be on a small segment of Westnedge and the city continually makes it hard for developers to deliver sites that these retailers want. Fiscal responsibility. Let's continue to provide a high level of services (physical, environmental, and human) at a good cost. A good cost doesn't mean to be cheap but to spend the proper amount to achieve the desired level of service.

I enjoy living in the Portage community. I feel very safe in the Centre St. area.

I love Portage and living here. Feel we receive services for taxes paid.

I love the Celery Park area and the connection of the trail ways. I also like the abundance of parks, trees, wildlife that we have while also having a little city at the same time.

I love the walking/running/bike trails in Portage. The recycling program is great.

I'm a new resident and I'm very pleased with Portage and love the community. I'm a new resident and I'm more than pleased with Portage.

it has Fantastic schools. It is a safe and nice place to live, raise a family.

It is a clean small city with good local services.

It is safe. Public projects, such as parks, are well funded and well maintained

It's bike friendly and generally safe

It's cleaner than Kalamazoo, I like the walking trails

Its people and housing options

Job opportunities and Public Education System

Less crime, safe and clean area. Tree lined streets, nature parks.

Library although I know it is independent of the city

Library, schools

Library. Parks.

Like all features of Portage

Location and moderately decent schools

Location and services

Location to major employers/retailers; cleanliness of community in general

Location, cost of living

Location, number of parks and bike paths

Lots of trees & nature, a lot of restaurants to choose from

Maintenance of streets/parks

Millennium Trail, School System

Mostly attractive neighborhoods. Recycling and junk/branch pick up programs.

Multiple choices for consumer shopping and dining AND beautiful, well-kept neighborhoods

Nature preserves. Cleanliness.

Nature trails and cultural diversity

Neighborhood schools (no bussing), safe neighborhoods

Nice neighborhoods and good traffic

Nice well-kept city and it's parks/bike trails/ al sabo/etc.

None

Overall fair tax rate, mostly clean and low crime

Overall, I think Portage is a great place to live and raise a family. I believe it is being managed well.

Park trail way system, retail/shopping

Parks & schools

Parks & trails

Parks and bikeways and curbside recycling.
Parks and Businesses!
Parks and Communities
Parks and community
Parks and lakes
Parks and lakes
Parks and quality of schools
Parks and recreation, businesses
Parks and safe neighborhoods
Parks and safety
Parks and schools
Parks and shopping (restaurants)
Parks and trails
Parks and Trails and I feel safe in Portage
Parks and trails, library
Parks system. Trash, leaf, etc. pickups
Parks, commitment to quality
Parks, keeping up with road conditions
Parks, Parks and trails
Parks, path/trails, open areas
Parks, Safety
Parks. My quiet neighborhood
Parks/bike paths/etc. and maintenance
Parks/Recreation and Feeling Safe
Parks/trails & schools
Parks/Trails and Trash pick-up/Recycling
People and access to major highways
People and the closeness to essential services

Pick-up of leaves, etc. and Parks
Plenty of places to shop and dine; nice neighborhoods
Police and Fire department
Police/Fire
Police/Fire Department and Portage Schools
Portage Bicentennial Trails. Portage Band shell.
Portage Community Center and leaf pick-up
Portage is a safe community with a City focused on meeting the needs of its citizens.
Public Safety and Parks/Trail ways
Quality of infrastructure and good schools
Quality of life. Lakes and creeks
Quality of life; access to retail and services
Quality of staff at City Hall. And overall quality of city involvement in resident affairs.
Quiet community, bike trails
Recreation opportunities and public schools
Recreation parks at the lakes/ restaurants
Recycle and parks
Recycling and trash/leaf/brush pickup
Relatively safe and clean City.
Relatively safe, not crowded
Response time for Fire and Police so that's two
Roads/traffic management, Police/Fire protection
Safe
Safe and clean
Safe and clean
Safe and friendly
Safe and secure living environment, availability of consumer outlets such as restaurants and shopping

Safe environment, Park and trail systems
Safe place to live and ease of mobility.
Safety and communication
Safety and location
Safety and proximity to locations within the county.
Safety and public areas
Safety and quality of education
Safety and trails
Safety, and parks
School and parks
School System, bike trails & parks
School systems and family-oriented (including safety)
Schools
Schools and bike/walking pathways
Schools and city services
Schools and employment
Schools and greenspace
Schools and jobs
Schools and location.
Schools and low crime rate
Schools and parks
Schools and public safety
Schools and safety
Schools and well maintained condition of most roads
Schools, convenience
Schools, kept up neighborhoods
Schools, parks/walk and bike paths
Schools, retail stores

Schools, senior center

Schools; friendly neighborhoods

Senior center & summer entertainment

Services and businesses

Services provided to community and safety and the park system, schools

Size and general lay out.

Small town feel with well-maintained facilities and services. Community Pride.

Stewardship of natural environment, PRO-active Senior Center

Stores are close, School system

The Art-Filled Lives and the Diversity of those who live here.

The bike and walking trails, ease of access to get around town

The bike paths and parks. There are many options for outdoor activities within the city and easy access to many homes.

The bike paths/parks are one of the best features, and access to stores/shopping.

The clean streets and aesthetics of the grass and sidewalks. It always looks inviting. I would also say the new businesses and restaurants.

The economy, and the quality of the public schools.

The feeling of community and the close proximity to green space.

The many local and variety of businesses and the quality of the schools

The multiple parks and the bike/trail system

The park system is great and overall I think the city does an outstanding job of using funding to maintain the city and provide excellent services.

The parks

The parks and bike trails

The Parks and Bike Trails / and the overall beauty of the area.

The Parks and the Community involvement

The parks are great and the library is fantastic. We enjoy all of the programs at both places.

The people and great balance between having many amenities and green space.

The Portage park system and the recycling service.

The Public Safety offered and the city Parks

The school system, and property maintenance (spring and fall pickup, brush pickup, recycling, leaf pickup

The school systems are ok from an educational perspective. There is not a lot of trash or “dirty” areas of town. Everything is well maintained.

The schools and friendly citizens

The schools and the safety of the areas.

Trail system and excellent City services.

Trail System and Parks

Trails and parks, schools

Trails and trees

Trails, general condition of community

Trails/parks and community events (outdoor concerts, farmers market)

Tranquility and access to stores and restaurants

Trials and parks

Very pretty city. Well taken care of city.

Walking trails and Harbors West Park

We have a great city manager who works hard to meet the needs of our citizens. 2nd Our former city engineer did a great job keeping our streets and trails and was constantly helping to make Portage a better place for motorist and non-motorists.

Well maintained neighborhoods and convenience to shopping

Well maintained parks and public areas of the city. Good schools.

42. Looking at the next ten years, what do you think is the single most important problem facing Portage?

A city center that has walkable attractions. I don't want to have to drive my car to the coffee shop and then to another store, and then get in my car again to drive a block away because there is so much traffic.

A lot of houses in portage are in bad condition--due to past economic times. Maybe an incentive for improving their houses?

Ability to maintain the quality of the infrastructure as the population grows.

Aging demographics / youth violence

Aging infrastructure.

Aging infrastructure...maintaining boulevards, sidewalks, trails, city park facilities and roads.

Aging water pipe lines, aging streets

All electric and cable should be underground. No more power poles.

All the new commercial developments are happening around Oshtemo, Kalamazoo west area. With Kalamazoo promise and low tax rates, some people are moving to Texas and Oshtemo townships. Without cultural heritage and diversity influenced by WMU and K college, Portage must find something unique features...

As Portage continues to grow, I think that traffic will become a bigger problem. Currently the main traffic problem is congestion on South Westnedge. With growth, traffic problems will extend to more of the major streets, i.e.; Center, Sprinkle, Romence, etc.

Attracting new businesses.

Balance between business/industry and parks/trails

Believe that we will continue to lose retail to on-line resources. You can tell at Christmas time that traffic is way down on Westnedge due to other alternatives. As stores close and leave, what will replace the large acreage devoted to shopping, i.e., Crossroads Mall.

Better jobs

Bike lanes. More and more people are biking as their form of transportation. Portage has a great start to the bike lanes, but it would be great to see more bike paths and to have all the paths connected. The bike lanes that are shared with the road get filled with trash cans, construction barrels, debris and fall leaf pick up and make them unusable for parts of the year. We love the paths that are dedicated to biking.

Building up apartment complexes and subsidized housing in communities near me and its impact on the housing market.

Business development

Changing face of retail and its impact on small business and the community. Is brick & mortar beginning to disappear?

Children are not being taught how to survive on their own through the school system. Classes on finance, budgeting and banking would go a long way to help them. Child rearing is so important that it too should be a class required along with sex education so that once they know how to make babies, they learn all the rest of taking care of the results of making babies! A tour of the area hospitals cancer wings might help them to understand the effects of smoking when caught smoking on school property or near the grounds, we live a couple blocks from PNHS and the kids gather on the corner and smoke so I know it is a problem.

City/community planning, specifically as it pertains to "older neighborhoods" (as in the Lexington Green area and the residential community surrounding Portage Northern High School).

Climate change.

Continuing to attract large employers with good paying jobs.

Continuing to ignore the needs of the less advantaged (seemingly with the hope that they will just move out of Portage). Could use a homeless shelter or at a minimum, better support with temporary housing for those pushed out of their current living situation.

Cost of expenses going up and the cancellation of services.

Crime or the upkeep of our neighborhoods.

Distracted drivers. I see people of all ages on their phone while driving. It's an epidemic. I would strongly support a tougher local ordinance on drivers caught using their phones while driving.

Diversifying the local economy to ensure stability of the tax base.

Diversity. I think the city government officials are doing a good job and setting a precedent of diversity and inclusion but some of the residence may need more. I don't know exactly what this looks like, maybe more cultural community events, maybe partnering with programs like the Lewis Walker Institute and having free movie screenings or guest speakers.

Don't know

Don't know.

Driving in this town is a terrible experience, mostly due to driver behavior, not street conditions. Some stop light timing or function is part of the problem (like Oakland/Centre, Constitution/Mall Dr). Average speed on Westnedge seems to be 45 mph, and enforcement of the 35 limit seems very rare. Portage is full of aggressive drivers, it is either very difficult to control them or the police don't care.

Drug use and disregard for established law, like the influx of illegals

Drugs and crime from low income housing projects. People in low income housing need more support and opportunities to improve their situations. Education and higher income will move them up and out of poverty, thus decreasing drug abuse and crime.

Ease of travel on Westnedge Ave as businesses develop/expand; Diversity

Economic development to create jobs

Effective maintenance of all streets and city parks/facilities.

Encourage commercial growth to support funding.

Expanding population of seniors. Need more affordable senior housing.

Expansion of the city and maintaining appropriate public safety numbers/street maintenance numbers to ensure the city is safe and the roads/sidewalks are safe and clear in the winter.

First: Dealing with empty retail space. Second: Maintaining the quality of the older housing stock.

Gentrification.

Growth

Growth and keeping Portage a safe place to live.

Growth causing problems with traffic

Growth in the commercial corridors brings greater traffic

Having affordable housing (no more apt sprawl. staying a conservative area. keeping tax rate low.

High tax rate

Housing and resources for low income

Housing shortages, and redevelopment potential of the mall, and other big box stores in Portage that will most likely continue to see declining customer bases and revenue.

Housing/ building growth and roads not capable of handling the traffic. We live off the corner of Milham Ave. and Oakland Dr. and the traffic in the morning just to get out of the subdivisions and to work is a mess. Ingresses and egresses are poorly handled, and there are not enough lanes to handle traffic. And, Portage doesn't really have a "downtown". It's grown so much, not sure how you do events that actually bring people together. There are no Community festivals/events. The taxes are high, houses in our neighborhood are going downhill and the values are not where they should be. Lawns not mowed, homes not taken care of, drugs and crime in Milham meadows... disgusting.

How to manage Crossroads shopping appeal if we lose major anchors like Sears and Penney's.

I am going based on my experience mentioned above. We had BIG issues with our builder, the city was no help, no guidance, honestly had a "God" complex, I was literally told that our permits were being held "hostage". That is the EXACT word. I had LOVED living in Portage until THAT moment. That was the moment I finally realized what so many other Portage citizens had complained about for the last 12+ yrs that we had lived here. I don't expect homeowner's hands to be held but I have heard of many stories where citizens have not had a voice in their situation or have been treated poorly. Or times where the "city" wants their documents or whatever "yesterday" but when it is vice-versa it takes an unacceptable amount of time.

I don't know. Maybe becoming more of a city like Kalamazoo rather than a community.

I would appreciate having shops that people could walk to and walk between. In some ways the commercial areas of Portage are giant, contiguous parking lots. I would greatly appreciate a

sidewalk along Shaver Rd from Meijer to the Shaver x Oakland intersection. Mobility in forms other than car automobiles need to be given greater priority.

Illegal drugs

Increase in drug related crime.

Increased taxes preventing seniors being able to afford to remain in Portage.

Increasing taxes to support social programs.

Increasing traffic volume

Infrastructure i.e.: Roads, Intersection control etc.

Influx of crimes and gun violence (as elsewhere)

Infrastructure.

Infrastructure.

Infrastructure/attracting new business

Involvement by the community including responsibility and financial limitations

It is very important to have proper snow removal of sidewalks along Westnedge. It is all too often that I see older people and people in wheelchairs being in the roads during winter because there is nowhere for them to walk. This has been a major problem for many years. We cannot let our unfortunate citizens endure this.

Job growth

Keeping and attracting new companies and business to keep people employed and the economy strong

Keeping focus on the school system to ensure it is stays attractive to families moving to Portage.

Keeping harmony; avoiding white flight as the city becomes more racially/economically diverse.

Keeping landscaping, trails and parks updated and fresh looking.

Keeping local business flourishing and open.

Keeping property taxes affordable for average working families.

Keeping tax and water rates down. Compared to what is happening in Kalamazoo with the decrease in taxes, the low water rates, the Promise, etc. I think those factors will be affecting a lot of choices in where people buy homes, etc. in the future.

Keeping taxes as close as possible to the current rates

Keeping the city safe and having it continue to grow in a way that it does not lose its charm thus keeping it a desired place to live and enjoy.

Keeping the homeless population in check. I've seen more and more move into the city from Kalamazoo in the past few years. I don't think it would be a horrible idea to set up funding for a homeless shelter or something along those lines. I'd rather they get the care they need (physical and mental) than see them on the street.

Keeping up infrastructure i.e. Roads. Parks, city services.

Keeping up with Growth

Keeping up with growth so that portage remains a pleasant place to live.

Keeping up with the growing population in terms of roads, businesses, and schools and also maintaining an appropriate amount of green space coupled with new construction.

Lack of HOUSING choices (types). Both Portage & Kalamazoo are equally backward in the area of housing options that will be needed for a growing & diverse population. As for older adults, many BOOMERS don't want to live the CCRC style of living such as the Fountains, Friendship Village or StoryPoint, even if they could afford it. For those who DO plan to stay in their own homes (as long as possible), we need to create a model virtual village like Beacon Hill Village (Boston, MA). Battle Creek is ALREADY working on one. We also need to look at the house-sharing and co-housing options---Ann Arbor offers both. More types of housing are needed (birth to death) for these changing times for both individuals, families, and extended families. PLANNING for housing appears to be missing from the agenda. I attended the PortageVision2025. The housing topic was NOT addressed with a vision other than what currently exists. I am connecting with others who are concerned about this situation and we would welcome

Lack of inclusiveness and diversity to some degree.

Lack of police concern/response with neighborly disputes, including noise violations.

Like Kalamazoo and Oshtemo townships, Portage depends to a great degree on the educational (WMU, KVCC) cultural and infrastructure (low income housing) attributes of the City of Kalamazoo yet provides little direct financial support to these largely tax-free or non-profit entities. Portage will not prosper with a declining Kalamazoo that has 40% of its property taxable institutions considered tax free. The challenge is to grow not only as a vibrant city but as a vibrant area. Not much is being done in this area.

Limiting growth

Looking at the last few years, property taxes have risen nearly 25%. With the increased spending and increased taxation, I'm afraid that people will leave and Portage will no longer be an attractive place to live.

Loss of retail stores. There are a lot of vacant storefronts.

Maintaining a strong corporate tax base

Maintaining an acceptable level of public services with the continued expansion of residential

neighborhoods.

Maintaining an adequate infrastructure to accommodate increased traffic flow.

Maintaining and upgrading its infrastructure.

Maintaining financial integrity of the city.

Maintaining great school systems.

Maintaining high quality services while remaining fiscally efficient and responsible.

Maintaining level of support as the community grows, given the expansion of Stryker, new business on Westnedge, and other growth

Maintaining our infrastructure and roads at a high level, while dealing with increased traffic. The traffic around schools at drop off and pickup time is ridiculous, and paralyzes movement for homes in the area.

Maintaining the high standards that encompass PORTAGE!!!!

Maintaining the lovely environment that we reside in.

Maintaining the quality and safety of roadways

Maintaining the quality of the schools and community while not raising property tax on residents.

Maintenance of infrastructure

Making sure there is an economic/social bridge between portage and Kalamazoo.

Making sure we keep our neighborhoods single family dwellings without possible B&Bs invading.

Management of homeless in public places such as library and Panera. There are homeless that are in the library from opening to closing... sometimes they are not wearing their shoes, sleep at various places throughout the library, and have strong odors. My friends and I have stopped meeting at the Panera on S. Westnedge/Milham because there is a homeless man that wanders around inside/smokes outside for hours and hours... making us feel unsettled. I am greatly concerned that there are no enforceable laws that prevent the homeless from taking over the Portage facilities that my tax dollars fund. I know there are services available for them that they often refuse..... This needs to be addressed as the problem is continuing to increase throughout our city. I am also concerned about the loitering at the Crossroads Mall. I no longer feel safe going there by myself.

Managing growth

Managing growth with the required infrastructure

Managing traffic and ensuring growth.

More congestion on the roads

Need a location for large fundraiser & community events

Need more pickle ball courts at the same location

No city center or "walkable" main street, doesn't feel like its own town.

No new businesses coming in for employment (excluding food service or retail)

Not allowing overbuilding on key corridors in Portage making traffic flow become a serious issue. Upgrading and maintaining our city streets. Upgrading roadways in neighborhoods with curbs and storm drains and new asphalt. Waruf Ave and the streets feeding into it from Sprinkle road are an absolute embarrassment. They were destroyed by all the traffic diverted through the neighborhood when Sprinkle road was closed and upgraded in 2011. The city has done nothing in decades to these streets. During heavy rains garages and driveways flood. I do not know of a single street in Portage that are worse than the Waruf Ave and connecting streets by Long Lake. Newer neighborhoods with house values similar to those on Long lake and the nearby neighborhoods have much better streets.

Not being prepared for growth

Not sure

Not sure

Not sure.

Old, long held parcels not being utilized for new neighborhoods. There are several parcels that could be connected to existing neighborhoods once these individuals sell. They probably want a good amount of money for property. Incentivize residential developers by helping to offset the costs so they can build reasonably priced homes, not just \$500,000 houses like AVB.

Over development of business and less family homes.

Over population causing congestion on the streets.

Overcrowding

Overdevelopment

Overdevelopment of empty spaces. Development of all the empty space is going on at a rapid pace - while some old neighborhoods are languishing.

Portage Public schools should support "advanced students" at a much greater level. Don't just let them sit still in the classroom without differentiated instruction / teaching, or even tell them to daydream / kill time at school. That's ridiculous. Manhattan schools provide support for advanced students at each grade level. Portage is far behind in this regard.

Portage Schools obsolete Microsoft Software training in an absolute Microsoft world. We are being told there is NO plan to upgrade any Microsoft software. Why shouldn't our Portage

students get the best software training? The current Microsoft software in our schools, is more than two software generations old. Our Portage School students are being denied proper training on Microsoft products which will be necessary for them when they finish Portage High schools. It is unconscionable to deny proper technical training to our students while building swimming pools and stadiums. Please upgrade seriously lagging Microsoft software to the current best available for our students.

Power lines... the trees in our neighborhood haven't received a good trim from consumers in quite a few years

Probably a weakened tax base as homes are not up kept and home prices fall. Which brings in the rift-raft.

Property Taxes

Providing services and accommodates for seniors. Population is growing, services are not

Public police and fire protection for a growing city.

Public school funding

Reduce spending

Remain financially solvent and continued growth.

Retailers vacating the malls, which are a good source of tax revenue.

Retaining our tax base

Rise in property taxes based on actual value, this has increased too fast and inaccurate. Numbers do not reflect actual value, only perceived value. Especially for seniors. Any boom in home sales is not an accurate barometer.

Road conditions

Road conditions and crap apartments/mobile home parks

Road conditions getting worse (pot holes, cracks, uneven surfaces).

Road congestion

Roads and expanding community.

Roads and increasing traffic flow. Portage is constantly growing and traffic just get worse and worse.

Safety

Safety

School systems

Schools and busing of the children to schools.

Social abuse of drugs and alcohol

Some of the old neighborhoods are degrading and becoming less desirable.

Street repair. Not the wet tar and loose stone temporary fix.

Streets to be taken care of better (paving) Streets are much busier now with vehicles and semi-trucks-We need to find a way to better traffic flow in our City.

Support to schools

Supporting schools and youth

Sustaining development and economy

Tax revenue (baby boomers retiring)

Tax revenue losses due to consumer spending habits changing may or may not be a major problem in the future. Brick and mortar retailers still dominate consumer spending; however, if the Crossroads mall closes how would that effect the City of Portage? How would U.S. consumers spending 10% less at physical stores change Portage?

Taxes

Taxes are getting too high.

Taxes are higher than surrounding newer neighborhoods. People want new and luxury, especially the younger generation. As houses continue to get older, house prices may be impacted. Extensive renovations could be required to compete with other areas where a new house may only be slightly higher than an old house in Portage. We have the advantage of location, but there is not much room left to build new. If we want to continue to attract the next generation of working professionals, we need to maintain nice neighborhoods and parks while keeping our neighborhoods quiet and safe.

Taxes from constantly upgrading schools

Taxes. If the taxes go much higher you're going to price me right out of my home. I've lived here for 20 years and taxes have really gone up.

The ability to accommodate for a growing population while maintaining quaint / slightly-country ambiance that Portage currently delivers.

The increase in drugs in young individuals. Individuals who want to use and sell marijuana will become a problem if it gets passed.

The lack of a "downtown" development. Not sure if there is an existing DDA, but you will see a huge influx of a younger generation trying to move here. There should be "the spot" that people of all ages can come visit. Lack of entertainment in Portage is killing me as a young professional. Get AVB or any other developer involved, and build a decent plaza where millennials and their

parents can hang out. A cinema (that's not by a mall), few bars, arcade, etc. Take example of Novi MI and Fountain Walk. Don't let a mediocre mall and Pfizer/Stryker dictate your demographic, that is a set up for failure.

The need for more single family housing

The oldest neighborhoods in Portage are having a shift in socio-economic demographics that is changing the type of student who attends Portage Public Schools. That is not a bad problem, just one that needs to be addressed as we enter into future of Portage. Along with that shift comes the need for more assistance in the food pantries, clothing drives for children, lower income housing concerns.

The roads are deteriorating fast, side streets need the fogging or chip and seal to slow the deterioration. Traffic lights should be timed better, also utilize the traffic cameras. Currently the lights on S. Westnedge in the morning stop traffic when there isn't any traffic from the side streets.

The roads, especially the stones.

The traffic issue on public roadways with speeding and people running through traffic control signals. I have been driving down most of the city roadways and I have to say that I observe at least 50% of drivers on cell phones or texting. There needs to be a concerted effort made to enforce the laws of the roads. I have not observed any speeding enforcement or cell phone enforcement. Most of my neighbors have not either. I am really concerned with the way people are driving with disregard for their actions. Put some unmarked vehicles on the streets along with an officer running hand held radar guns and then have marked cars make the stops much like the seatbelt enforcement program.

The traffic jams in the morning on Westnedge in front of Portage Central Elementary. This area should have a police officer directing traffic in the morning. Traffic lights are not in sync causing jam ups.

Too many businesses on Westnedge.

To many rich or better off parents indirectly giving their kids drug money

Too fast growth and the delay in infrastructure to support the growth.

Traffic

Traffic

Traffic

Traffic

Traffic

Traffic

Traffic congestion

Traffic patterns

Traffic routing, flow, and control.

Traffic violations - drivers not paying attention, constantly pulling out in front of you, turning or running red lights, not following driving laws in general and police or city not doing anything about it. It feels pretty dangerous driving around here especially on main roads even though traffic flow might be alright, most drivers think they can do whatever they want and put others at risk. Speed violations are not being enforced.

Traffic with all the new housing

Traffic.

Traffic.

Traffic congestion due population increase

Trying to keep open spaces as we grow

Uncontrolled housing development that does not keep the greenery and preserves nature and forested areas.

Unsafe driving conditions because of the loss of road shoulders and having to drive in the oncoming lane to "protect" people on bikes.

Unsure

Urban sprawl...Very upset about the money that is paid to add fluoride to our water. What is wrong with everyone? We have fluoride in our toothpaste and mouthwashes...why are we drinking this toxin. Not only the money that is spent putting this in our water supply but, the health effects and other problems caused by ingesting this poison.

Vacant wooded land don't want to see it destroyed

Water Quality

We need to promote economic development. We need to work on attracting more businesses to Portage. We are worried about what will happen if the Crossroads Mall closes in Portage.

We need to protect our wild areas. Development is good, but it is removing habitat. There is no reason for Stryker, Pfizer and others to have acres of mowed grass. They could block off most of their lawns and allow them to go wild. When the new bus garage was built on Zylman, the vegetation was mostly removed. During construction there was a beautiful row of natural vegetation which blocked the view of the garage. Right at the end of the project it was removed, so now the building is easily visible as you drive down Zylman. The new Stryker building has a vegetation barrier now which I fear will also be removed.

Westnedge Avenue, I wish there were bridges over the road for pedestrians. I would like to cross

the road in the crosswalk with my children but we generally drive. If there were pedestrian bridges we could walk across safely and maybe a lot of people would decide to walk and shop instead of driving to every parking lot.

Westnedge traffic

Zombie apocalypse.

46. How would you classify your racial or ethnic heritage? [Other – specify]

American

Don't discriminate by classification

Native American, Irish, German

Race is a social construct and does not actually exist.

This question should not be asked

Whitey McWhiterson

48. Which of the following best describes where you live? [Other – specify]

Duplex

Duplex

Over 55 Community town home

51. Please indicate below any other comments, concerns, or suggestions you may have for the City of Portage.

1 our parks lately have been renovated with nice equipment but all the parks are designed for kids 5 and older. They should have never have taken the equipment out that was designed for younger children unless it was planned to be replaced. We need to immediately install equipment for younger children 1-5 to ensure families and all children can utilize our parks. # 2 we need to continue to add more linear parks and trails. They are highly used and continue to grow in use. We need more to connect with our neighboring communities such as Vicksburg and Texas Township as well as others. Connecting our Portage trails to the Vicksburg trail would have a huge impact on developing positive relationships between the two cities. Also, a bridge or tunnel under or over US 131 for non-motorized traffic such as at Romance Road would be a huge benefit to our citizens. Also adding more trails along the consumer power line easements greatly benefits all parties involved. A good example would be to extend the Garden Lane trail along the powerlines from Lovers Lane eastward to the city limits.

1) Get rid of spring junk pick up and do a fall pick up only. It is too early in the spring. 2) Somehow do a local hazardous waste collection in Portage. Driving to the Kazoo one is not easy. 3) Do an electronics recycle event(s). 4) Parking on streets has become crazy in neighborhoods. People parking all their cars on the street, in any which direction. Police don't seem to do anything about it. People storing crap cars/RV's/boats all over the place.. 5) Forget the Deer questions...how about all the skunks! Seriously... Thanks for the curbside recycling - It is the best thing we have!

1. Better solution for Milham Meadows housing. We have had to install cameras, and have even had an attempted break-in this summer. Car break-ins all over the neighborhood. A continual crossing of people at the intersection of Oakland and Milham from the apartments to the quick mart, none of them using cross walks. People arguing on the bike path at night. 2. Better solution for traffic coming from the housing west of Oakland Dr. on Milldam Ave. The morning commutes are horrible waiting for stoplights, and the CDC school on Oakland has no one monitoring their flow of traffic and out during school high times. Residents can't get out of the subdivision, as the people turning into the school to drop off are then allowed to come back out onto Oakland Dr. and turn back in the same direction. 3. More community based events that draw people in to connect to their community. 4. Care of subdivisions. We have no sidewalks, no curbs (some have them, some don't) Street lights are out. Residents not taking care of homes and lawns, too many "rental" properties allowed with no follow up care with owners. We have lived here for over 23 years and raised our children here. We have made many friends, but recently have talked about moving out of this community because of the above issues. I love that we have roots here, but we also don't want to see our investment go down the drain either. Thank you for taking the time to talk to your residents!

1. As a researcher, I am concerned about the double-barrel questions used in this survey and their results yielded from such questions. (I.e. question 28 indicates private donors and then asks about public funds in addition which leads the question). Additionally, question 25, one the most important questions on this list, should have been a Likert scale rather than binary. 2. The increased support for subsidized housing reporters have followed is financially concerning for the decrease in the housing value and overall the housing market (near Centre and Lovers Ln).

1. Street replacement schedule for neighborhood Streets. Hemlock Ave in particular. Traffic count needed for this street. 2. Stop Light synchronization for traffic flow and Left turn light standardization either at the beginning or end of the stop light cycle.

14. If you have utilized the services offered at the Portage Senior Center, how satisfied are you with these services? ----- I'm not sure what kind of responses you're going to get with this question. I'm a member of PSC and I'm aware of their programs and activities--but I'm unclear about to what services this question refers.

A lot of parents in Portage struggle to give their kids the basic needs, we need to lower taxed and somehow take equal care of everyone

A wonderful place to live. I feel safe here. My daughter, a teenager, is getting an excellent education. I love to see the deer and turkeys on the way to work, especially down Romence.

Keep up the good work!! Would it be possible to have a City controlled sidewalk snow removal? Could it be rolled into the city public transportation budget?

Access to medical cannabis will be important in regulated commercial environments. I support passage of ordinances that will accommodate this in our community. I also support the continued bike and running trail networks throughout the city. I would like to see the celery flats trail network find its way through the industrial corridor and over to the Lexington green neighborhood and park. It's one of the few areas of portage left that does not have any trail network. Thank you for your time

After living in Kalamazoo for a number of years and now in Portage for the past 14, I am always sad to still hear comments about the white flight of the 1970's. Portage is still seen as conservative and white instead of diverse. I would love to see our image reflect a vast people who are living and working together in this vibrant community.

Although road improvements are great, unmarked manhole cover recesses can be damaging to vehicles and hazardous when struck. I wish they could be painted/marked so they are easier to see and avoid.

As a daily bike commuter in the warm weather (and even when it gets cold, but not snow), I would love to see even more connectivity with our existing trails and bike paths within the city and also connecting us to Kalamazoo and other communities.

Better diversify your workforce, especially police and fire departments and City Hall Executive Staff.

Better patrolling the neighborhoods

Brush pick up, if 4x year, may be better served in April, June, August & October. Jan, Apr, July & Oct does not benefit as many residents. The snowplow drivers do a nice job of keeping our streets clear but need to slow down in neighborhoods and not fill driveways as deep and full by driving too fast and driving in lawns. Also should be mindful of residents who take the time to shovel out the storm drains. Crews picking up leaves should not pile leaves in a giant mound and not pick them up for a day or two. If their piles can't be collected the same day they should leave them alongside the road until it can be done in one day. The increase in quarterly water bills had made it unaffordable to water lawns for many residents.

City seems to take pride in the community; doesn't let problems linger on; I like the boulevards that have been constructed but always wonder just how expensive they are!!

Connect the trail way to Kalamazoo. Find a way to connect at Kilgore and get a path to downtown. Do you know how nice that would be to ride safely from city to city and not have to get on very busy streets? That would be great, I know it is probably a Kalamazoo cost but it would certainly help.

Continue to build a partnership with Kalamazoo. This is key to helping build a community, both socially, and financially.

Continue to manage the budget within our resources and be prepared for contingencies like Stryker or Pfizer leaving or downsizing. Also prepare for what happens if shopping keeps going toward on line options.

Disappointed in the loss of Shakespeare in the Park and similar cultural events.

Don't touch my money and don't tell me what to do.

Drugs with adults and especially the youth in Portage is a growing issue. The dispensaries need to be closed and no more added to the City. I understand some citizens need medical marijuana for good reasons and the few in the region that "really need it" should go to a regional medical center to get it safely. Most that have a card use it for recreation and so many youth are exposed to it. Any elected official that wants to add more of this needs to be voted out of office!

dude, too many boulevards, the cost to maintain them is too high, and it adds a buffet for deer to eat at 4:00am and I hate when they jump in front of me on romance, and Milham, and center east of portage... stop putting them in. I see the plows hit them in winter, I see guys mowing them and throwing rocks with the mowers into traffic in summer, sprinkler repairs (or lack there-of when they just spray into the street and into my window...lol) and the deer love them... please don't put any more in.

Found it a bit curious that you spelled the word "marijuana" with an h. Kind of old fashioned. In fact, it got me to google it to learn about the history of the spelling. Long story short, it would be a nice idea if you would spell it with a "j" in the future. Also, I want to add more on the issue of snow removal. I believe strongly that we have been lucky that nobody has been killed or seriously injured by a snow plow (or the flying mailboxes) that they set into flight. I have called about this - I'm told that they stay under the speed limit. Even if this is true, they should NOT be going the speed limit! Any vehicle that big that is pushing snow should be going well under the speed limit. And it simply is unacceptable to destroy so many mailboxes and offer as a replacement the extremely UGLY replacement - a short unpainted stick with a mailbox sitting on top. It hurts the appearance of the neighborhood. I chose this option only because I cannot afford to replace my mailbox year after year. Also, my street is not kept passable by any means, despite its proximity to a school. This leaves anyone who is physically vulnerable (the elderly, for example), locked in their homes because they cannot risk getting stuck.

Get feedback on specific goals; past, present and future.

Good community!

Hardly a day goes by where I don't see at least one vehicle running a red light and the frequency has increased greatly over the last few years. Many times the cross street signal has turned green and one or two vehicles are still blowing through the red. Police should be doing more monitoring of some of these major intersections in addition to clocking speed.

I am a fan of Portage's phone apps - Portage Alert and the See Click Fix.

I am a lifelong Kalamazooian who ended up in Portage merely because of housing. I confess to having thought that people in Portage were stereotypically uppity and ostentatious. For the most

part, I was very wrong, many of the things I love about Kalamazoo are true for Portage also; community, the arts, easy access to government. I have found though that Portage distances itself from Kalamazoo County while also letting the city of Kalamazoo carry the bulk of diversity services. When I do a google search for 'LGBT services Portage MI', the only hits are located in Kalamazoo. In search of a doula program, I cannot find anything in Portage. Now I do have to consider that Kalamazoo hosts the hospitals however a search for 'Portage MI diversity' brings up events from 2010. The racial demographics do not match the National average, Portage lists 13.1% minority in 2010 while nationally sits at about 39%. Perhaps this has gone under my radar, but I have not heard anything from the city of Portage on its stance on offering the city as a sanctuary to people who are undocumented or regarding the housing of refugees. Portage has become personal to me, I now have a Granddaughter attending Portage schools and I would like to be one of the many continuing to make Portage an even better, more inclusive home.

I appreciate the Police Department's presence in my neighborhood, especially at school start and end times. The parks and the bikeways are wonderful, but there are large cracks appearing in the pavement, enough to twist an ankle if you are a walker or runner. Please keep these maintained and safe!

I believe we should support diversity as much as possible (age, race, income level, sexual orientation, etc. I also believe our zoning laws should support renewable energy and home based businesses which don't interfere with neighbors.

I do not know if this information is accurate but I heard the EMS services in Portage has been outsourced to another company outside the fire department. Having competent and prompt EMS service is extremely important to my household and a key reason why we live in Portage.

I have concerns about the speed of traffic on our street. It is posted 25 mph but traffic is going much faster than that. Our street is a cut through to Romance Rd. off Shuring Rd. It would be nice to have this patrolled for speeders. Very dangerous for walkers or bikers.

I have discovered the Portage Bikeway trail this year and I love it. I would love to see more trails added over time. I would like to see the trails swept clean from time to time. I'm not sure if there is a schedule for that or not. Also I've seen people smoking cigarettes and marijuana on the trails. I think the trails and all public parks should be designated no smoking areas with signs posted.

I have had issues with conflicting city parking ordinances and their enforcement and what appears to be the understanding of them by law enforcement. Specifically the ordinances as they pertain to R.V. parking on public streets.

I noticed a marked improvement in water quality after the recent water system upgrades. Thank you.

I question at times if Portage has enough Police because I don't see them very often but that might also be a good thing reflecting the safety of the city. I know I don't investigate enough but it would be nice if there was more evening entertainment for adults in Portage.

I really appreciate the ClickFix app that I used once this summer due to a home in our area that has a definite hoarding issue. The timeliness of the communication was great. There was nothing being done about it so when I called and talked to someone, I really appreciated the information I was given. The home was taken care off (all junk removed) but unfortunately it is piling up again. Portage is a great safe city. I just feel with the increases in taxes and water rates there will be real competition with Kalamazoo.

I sometimes wonder if there should be a community hunt to bring down the deer population, possibly with bow hunting. (Because of the car/deer issue) It could also provide families or homeless people with extra food. Another concern is that we have a lot of people harassing the animals in our neighborhood, I wonder what could be done about that. Lastly, we live in a neighborhood with a rent-a-car car wash at the end of the road. On somedays cars speed at high rates and there are a few children in our neighborhood, I have called about a speed limit sign in the Milham Road, Willoughby area but haven't seen one posted yet.

I still don't like the way they are squeezing down Portage Road. I can remember when it was a two lane road and it was terrible; very slow traffic (driving way under the speed limit) holding up other drivers. With the expansion of Stryker and Pfizer growing along with other development in that area (new housing to the south of Portage) is going to make traveling Portage Road a nightmare.

I think that the width of bike lanes are to narrow. They do not take into account the chance of an accidental spill. They should be 1/2 the width of a traffic lane. And when vehicles are approaching, riders should be required to ride single lane farthest to the right of the lane.

I think you're doing well and enjoy the city. Please don't overdevelop it and build on every tiny plot. Keep it "natural" as your slogan implies. A little more police presence would be appreciated. Traffic on Milham between Oakland and 12th speeds often, passes in the left hand turn lane (at Heverly), etc. Cars speeding in the subdivision is another problem, but I suppose that's a problem most everywhere. Thank you for asking these questions.

I use the trail system in Portage 4-6 times a week and greatly appreciate the way the trails are maintained and the easy access. For the most part, I have always felt safe when on the trails. I would love to see the trails extended.

I was very disappointed to find out the Bicentennial Trail section between Kilgore and Milham was being moved and straightened. I didn't know about it until I tried to use it and it was closed for renovation, and even that sign didn't explain the reason. I would have liked wider advance notice and explanation (although maybe there was and I just missed it). I found out later that it had to be moved over a borderline to accommodate a longtime contract, so I grudgingly see that the move was necessary, though I miss the particular scenery from the original sections. I also really miss the curves! They were far more interesting to travel than a straight section, and gave me a better workout because they made the trail longer. Don't get me wrong, I love Portage and the trail overall; this change just struck me to the heart more than I would have expected it to. Thanks.

I wish I could drive 38 mph on Westnedge and not be passed on the right or fear being hit by aggressive drivers. I HATE driving in this city. I fear drivers who are texting (see them all the time and often honk at them). So many drivers are looking down (at phones) or talking on phones while driving, scary. My biggest complaint is FOOLISH DRIVERS threatening my safety. Also a lot of blowing through red lights. How about some enforcement effort??? Do we ever write traffic tickets in Portage? Also my street is a low snow plow priority so I often have to stay up until 10:30 or 11:00 pm to go out and clear the 2 foot berm that appears after plowing at the end of my driveway so I don't have to get up early, waking my neighbors with snow blower noise at 5:30 am. Not looking forward to the next winter.....

I wish there was a dedicated Portage "town square." I previously lived in the western suburbs of Chicago (St. Charles/Geneva) and loved the community feel and having a place where festivals were held and people met up. I do love the people of Michigan though and living here has been great!

I wish you would continue to publish the map and dates of leaf pickup or trash pickup in the Portager. It is helpful and easier then looking it up online.

I would like it if the City of Portage would go over snow removal procedures with its employees, specifically as it applies to cul-de-sacs. We live on a cul-de-sac and when they remove the snow, they push the snow into our driveway (we live in the center of the cul-de-sac) instead of scooping it throughout the entire cul-de-sac, coming around the "horseshoe" and pushing it out. We have had 1 1/2 feet of pushed snow at the end of our driveway numerous times over the years and sometimes it is hard as a rock and takes a lot of time to remove. It is especially frustrating when we spend a lot of time clearing the entire driveway the night before and then wake up to find a foot and a half of snowplowed snow at the end while our neighbors only have a few inches at the end of theirs.

I would like to see attention paid to increasing the shoulders on roads to allow for safer bike riding. My husband no longer goes for rides on his road bike due to too many close calls and an accident. He only bikes at Al Sabo on his mountain bike now.

I would like to see the traffic light cycle shortened between 12-6am.

I'd love to see further work on natural areas and trails

I'm a new resident and I love the community and how well it is taken care of. A very friendly place to live.

Increased WIFI availability at parks will be a plus. Possibly Lakeview & Ramona. Thank you for all you do!

It is VERY hard to find out what services the city offers. There isn't a good way to find out what is going on (the website is bad) with the city (events, government, etc.). The recent \$1+ million investments in improving the roads is already showing wear, close to needing repair. This seems to have been a waste of city funds. There is a problem in my neighborhood with high school students smoking marijuana and drinking at night. This happened nearly every single day

through the summer but a police car never made a patrol down my street. While I generally feel safe in Portage, it is of great concern that my neighborhood is not part of any patrol.

It would be nice in planning future neighborhoods, to consider more green spaces within the neighborhood and mixed zoning so you could have some stores and restaurants within easy and safe walking distance.

Keep adding bike and walking paths.

Keep investing in the school system and youth programs, we have a great school system and is a huge benefit to everyone that lives in the area.

Keep up the good work and support the Police and Fire Departments with the best equipment to do their jobs safely so they may return home after each shift!!

Keeping driveways clear of junk! Making sure neighborhoods stay as single family dwellings without Airbnb's or other B&Bs.

Living in a condo trash removal, snow removal and street repair are done through our Assn.

Living in Sterling Oaks West, we utilize few of the city resources and yet pay very high taxes. I have only one simple request. Please plow the streets coming into Sterling Oaks West as a priority as if it were on a bus route. Many residents are elderly and need to get out for appointments, etc. We need the connector streets plowed. This is mainly Gulfport Trail. Thank you.

Living on Long Lake, I think it would be great to see city water available around the whole of the lake.

Looking forward to Pat Randall as Mayor!

Lower the housing taxes on Austin Lake.

Make sure police/fire services are adequate for the size of Portage. Balance all aspects of family life in Portage; arts, sports, community events and services, schools.

More and more young adults are gathering in public places. I am a little concerned about gangs forming.

More curbside pickups; large herby-kirbies for curbside recycling; fewer programs to segregate seniors from the rest of the population and more to integrate them with the families.

More discounts for seniors...water bill especially

More PR for what you do now. Additional cleanup pickups - helps to clean the houses and the neighborhoods. More support for the police - seems like they are needed more now than ever.

Moved here 5 years ago from another state far away, feel that the City services for the taxes payed are great! Also it appears that the City actually cares and attempts to correct problems.

My family of 4 is surviving on my disability pittance. I really wish there were programs in place

to lower property tax for low income folks. We currently pay over 20% of our family income to property tax. Overall we like living in Portage.

My wife and I have enjoyed living in portage the last 11yrs. The roads and parks are well maintained (no thanks to the state). Would like to see better timing of lights along Westnedge and portage rd. The school board needs to start thinking more about the students than the politics there playing. All in all it's a great place to live.

None

None.

Our neighborhood needs curbs badly and there are a few oak trees on our lot (that belong to the city) that need attending to

Parks system is maintained well. Roads are needing improvement in some areas but understandable as to why due to our winters. Also, why do we stripe a road then do crack sealing/loose gravel patching over the top of new lines, rendering the paint job moot? Seems like a waste of funds. Stripe later in the season when most repairs are done and this will allow the lines to be seen better at night/low light conditions. Also, quite a few intersections need arrows/stop lines re-painted.

People speed way too much on Milham and Centre. Could use additional police to patrol area and write tickets. Also copperleaf could use speed bumps as it's a neighborhood but people go fast through it and with the additional phases being added, will create a long stretch of road that is straight. Would also support more bike trails as having bike paths on roads are nice but don't trust drivers when everyone is on phones these days.

Please don't cave in to special interests!

Please fix the streets in the neighborhood south of Ramona Park, they are a disaster completely crumbling, watershed is bad, garages and driveways flood, water mains have ruptured over the years and a terrible patch job was done each time, the road sinks due to not properly preparing the road base. I believe in the time I have lived here the streets around Austin Lake have been repaved twice. Portage is aggressively raising taxable values on properties on Long Lake, we would like to have streets in our neighborhood representative of the value of homes in this neighborhood. Other than that Portage is a great place to live, work and shop. Our family feels safe and travel freely throughout Portage. Parks & Trails are amazing! Police and Fire are very good! Proud to be a resident of Portage

Please plan for the future using the principles of protecting our city for people, prosperity and planet. 1) New housing developments should include sidewalks and trails to connect people to schools, parks, community centers, stores, businesses, and workplaces. The new trails should be protected from vehicular traffic, pleasant, and be a shorter distance to the desired destination than by road. The City of Portage should require a public right of way for pedestrians and bicyclists between properties where necessary. 2) Each residential neighborhood should have a park or open space, safely accessed without crossing busy roads. 3) Consider burying electrical and

communications cables. 4) Give tax credits for LEED certified energy-efficient new commercial and residential construction, including low gas, low electricity, and low water usage.

Please repair the tennis court pavement at Haverhill Park. Thank you for your dedication and service! Thanks to the Portage Police, Fire, Teachers/Coaches/Admins, Medical Professionals, Parks Department, Post Office, Street/Snow/Trash crews, and all others who make this a great place to live!

Please work to maintain bike paths Keep maintenance on roads and streets (no potholes) Add noise ordinance...no lawn mowing or using high noise machines (like leaf blowers, brush trimmers etc.) before 10 AM Saturdays and 11 AM Sundays, Many times there is noise pollution early in the morning. We must maintain the beautiful tranquility in City of Portage. Thank You

PLOW THE STREETS IN THE WINTER, PLEASE! Yes, I was shouting on purpose. I've had to call in sick because I couldn't get out of my neighborhood. While you send plows down Milham and Westnedge every 30 seconds, you ignore for 24 to 36 hours the subdivisions.

Portage has a wonderful library

Portage is a GREAT place to live...grew up here, moved away for about 20 years, and (thankfully) moved back! Love it! I'll be proud to die here in my home town.

Portage is truly great and I am lucky to raise my child here, work here and live here. It's safe, clean, quiet, and there is a lot to do here. I have zero plans to move in the next 10 years, it's not where I am, it's where I want to be.

Portage Schools obsolete Microsoft Software training in an absolute Microsoft world. We are being told there is NO plan to upgrade any Microsoft software. Why shouldn't our Portage students get the best software training? The current Microsoft software in our schools, is more than two software generations old. Our Portage School students are being denied proper training on Microsoft products which will be necessary for them when they finish Portage High schools. It is unconscionable to deny proper technical training to our students while building swimming pools and stadiums. Please upgrade seriously lagging Microsoft software to the current best available for our students.

Portage should be proud of its bike paths and consider further expansion. They are used regularly by a variety of citizens and add to "green space" in a busy community.

Pretty well satisfied.

Promotion of a city center identity

Question 4 indicated more than one reply could be checked.... However system would not take more than one reply

Regarding the softball program: As a former head coach of a Softball team my significant other has met many ballplayers who play in other leagues outside of Portage, like Comstock or Kalamazoo. Comstock in particular is significantly less money per team to play yet they have

MUCH greater improvements to their fields, for example they have covered dug outs. After two seasons he failed to see any new additions to the fields in Portage. Also, the non-resident fee that Portage has is only a deterrent for people who would otherwise want to play in Portage, they already have to pay more money to get here (gas) and to then on top of that have to pay more than resident players who are receiving the same service is unfair. These things were part of the reason he decided not to have a Portage team anymore. Pedestrian traffic at Garden Ln @ Celery Flats: There always seems to be a state of confusion as to who has the right of way at the pedestrian crosswalk. Most vehicle traffic does not yield to pedestrians, while occasionally one vehicle may stop creating a dangerous situation. If one car stops for pedestrians while another car from the other direction does not stop (because there is no sign there telling him to do so) a pedestrian could be injured. I drive through this area extremely frequently as I live in the neighborhood. I think that either it should be VERY clear to pedestrians that traffic is not stopping or put up a new sign that makes all vehicle traffic yield to pedestrians. I am aware that there is a crosswalk sign but it isn't telling drivers that they have to yield. Regarding the condition of the city water: I think the city should do something about the brown water that we get every so often or at least explain to residents what is going on and when we will be effected so that we can prepare. Regarding another junk pick up: I would not support another junk pick up, a lot of people come out driving around during the junk pick up usually for a two week period, people that are not normally in the area. People go through your things and are looking all around your house/surrounding property I don't think it is particularly safe and wouldn't like having that multiple times a year. I would like more notification about parades/events in the city. I know many events are listed in the newsletter but I don't recall the parades being listed, or at least listed in an obvious manner, I have missed so many parades because we didn't know they were going on but would have been there if we knew. Lastly, I think the city should get on board with the medical marijuana (incorrectly spelled multiple in the survey) and stop fighting it. The residents voted in favor of decriminalization but it seems city government tries to fight against it in any way they can... I think it is better to be an innovator in this situation. States that have legalized are seeing large revenues bolstering their economies. I think there is something to be learned from that and as long as it isn't a direct danger to residents we need to move past wanting to put up a battle due to personal bias and see how we can all use this to our benefit.

Regarding snow removal I feel the service stops over the weekend.

Sidewalks in my neighborhood! Needs a water park for kids.

Since I live in a condo and it is considered a private street, I do not have access to programs such as the Household Junk Collection. It would be nice if this was an option for houses on private streets as we pay taxes that fund these programs as well. Thank you for maintaining the parks and areas such as tennis courts and basketball courts. I see these being used all the time and if they are not maintained, people don't use them. I really enjoy living in the city of portage and it has been a great community for my husband and me to begin our life together!

Speed of snow removal trucks (from wet snows' impact) continuing to take mail boxes out

Stop wasting money on boulevards and use the money to fix the streets. Don't put slippery gravel

on the road to fix holes because it's extremely dangerous especially for motorcycle riders. Not sure how we will be able to afford to live here if taxes keep going up by so much every year. Snowplows drive too fast in residential areas.

Take care of those darn orange cones and uncompleted work on Constitution Boulevard. It's been 7 to 8 months since the bricks were torn out and replaced with orange cones. Let's continue to make Portage the city of trees, and not the city of cones! Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the survey.

Taxes seem high; need to work on efficiency and costs control. I live near the lakes, but not on a lake. I'm concerned that high lake property values cause my assessed value and taxes to go up disproportionately. Would appreciate better speed monitoring on Woodhams Ave; an electronic "reminder" or occasional patrol car monitoring would help. It is a long street but residential all the way. Some perceive it as a shortcut. I would like an option to get a fire permit for burning brush (not leaves). The pickups are helpful, but I have a lot that does not qualify for pick up and bags etc are not a practical option.

Thank You for doing a great job!!!

Thanks for doing this

The 5 foot bike law is very hard to maintain on most streets especially in neighborhoods

The bike problem. These bikers seem to think they own the roads. They are not cars. They do not follow the law. They do not have the same rights, no, they do not. This is getting out of hand. Especially at rush hour on Oakland drive. They do not contribute anything to the roads, yet seem to think, the roads are there for them. It is getting out of hand.. Know with this dumb. Give them 5 feet non-sense.

The bikeway needs to be extended down Zylman Ave on the park side at Ramona Park. Too many people (many children) are walking, biking, etc. on the road. Please add to the sidewalk starting at the fire station and down the south side of Zylman towards the lake. I suggest using the old roadway that runs through the woods and connecting it back to the sidewalk by the gazebos at the northeast corner of Ramona by the lake. Please let me know if you have questions about this. 269-217-1824 Rod Pieper

The council should not fight among themselves

The intersection of Milham and Oregon during morning drop off and after school. I have a junior in high school and one in middle. I drive them to school every day and people are running the red light all the time and not watching for the kids. I have seen 3 different times where kids have been hit by cars. Thank god everything they went going too fast and two of them were with the side mirrors but the people don't even get out to their cars. They just yell at the kid to see if their ok and then drive off. It is not a safe! I hope someone looks into this. Thanks

The only problem I have is the snow plows in winter piling up snow and ice at end of sidewalk. I live on corner of Romence & Leawood. I never used to have problem but then they redid sidewalk and curb design. Now plows come down Leawood and leave piles of ice and snow at

end of sidewalk. I have mobility issues and if left overnight it freezes into an ice mountain and very hard to remove. My only complaint of Portage services.

The park rangers at Harbors West Park are very friendly and the park is kept very clean. I would like for leaf pickup to be potentially adjusted according to season condition (this year was very dry and I have had to bag many leaves due to them falling early and no pick up until late October). Overall very satisfied with the city of Portage services.

There are no sidewalks on my street (Fairfield), so people just walk in the middle of the road which is unsafe.

There are no sidewalks on Portage Rd past Milham toward Kilgore. If we could get sidewalk that would be awesome.

There are some neighborhoods that show signs of deterioration. More publicity about the funds that are available to help low income, disabled, and seniors receive assistance should be increased.

There was a question asking about the "weekly" curbside recycling program. It is not weekly at all. It gets picked up every other week and it's not enough. We have the biggest container and still fill it completely up every week. We love the recycling program and wish it could be expanded to weekly pickups.

Things seem better since Adams left but still need more transparency in all areas of gov. and services. Even more information output to affected residents.

This city has a lot of potential, but is very offsetting to a younger generation. If you want to grow as a community, start catering to the wants of the future of this state and country.

Too much spending and taxing

Urban blight is taking over the "States Streets", Connecticut, New Hampshire, Idaho, the entire area. Rental properties are beginning to trash the neighborhoods. Take a drive down Connecticut Ave and observe. We have contacted the City and nothing is happening. Our housing values are dropping. The schools are doing a nice job with their building improvements. Utilize roundabouts at key intersections to improve traffic flow instead of more traffic lights.

Very happy with City of Portage.

Very honestly I am quite satisfied with the city as a whole. I feel that the law enforcement division could use a jump start with traffic enforcement on many of the roadways. Also the city needs to inform the public of the crimes and illegal activities that are going on. Use the help of the public to gain information and stop being so politically correct with information regarding crimes and issues that affect the public. Put some extra patrols in the big store parking lots during the day and night. Or start a civilian watch program to do some of this. You ask for volunteer Handicap parking enforcement then pay the park rangers? The reserve police officers could have done a lot of that, but they were eliminated. Take a look at higher visibility in public areas and I'm confident it will help.

We appreciate the lower tax rate in Portage as compared to Kalamazoo, and we think the lower rate helps to make housing affordable and would like to see that continue.

We have enjoyed living in Portage and watching 50 years of progress.

We live in a condominium development so we don't receive many of the services mentioned (leaf pickup, trash pickup, snow removal, etc.) so I can't really comment on those items.

We love Portage! It has been a wonderful place to raise my daughter!

We pay for water usage to Portage and Pavilion Twp. Taxes, and are 5 houses down from the City limits. We are not able to participate in any leaf removal or household removal programs. We pay to remove these items. Is there a way that we could pay a small fee and be added?

We really enjoyed Recycled Art in the park! Also all the programs for adults through the library, even though we haven't made it to many, we hope to in the future!

When house searching Feb 2016, we decided to keep our search in Portage rather than expanding through Kalamazoo. We've always enjoyed Portage parks and driving through the neighborhoods and have also heard really good things about the school district. Therefore, we closed on our home in Portage at the end of April 2016 and we couldn't be happier to be Portage Residents. We live near Portage Northern High School and it has been neat walking our dog around the school to see the progress they are making with the new developments (football field, soccer field, middle school, etc.). We're hoping to raise a future Huskie!

Why does it take a call from a resident to city hall to report cars, work equipment, etc. that are parked in front lawns when we have our police department driving in neighborhoods who could report addresses while on duty as time would allow.

Why is there so many below grade manhole covers, and why can't they be placed where tires won't hit them under normal driving. They seem to zig zag all over. The old saying goes: Are you drunk, no, I live in Portage, I'm just trying to avoid all those damn manhole covers! Why so many boulevards. It seems that maintenance of the boulevards would be costly.

Would like to see a bike path or walkway along Sprinkle in front part of Ramona Park tying the neighborhoods on both sides of Sprinkle to the Stryker bike path.

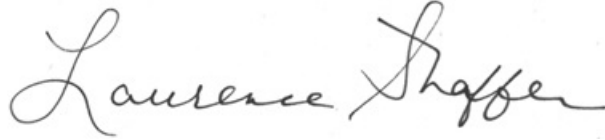
Would like to see an increase in focus on human services in Portage. We tend to defer to Kzoo for those more essential services.

Would love to see more services for people over 60 who are still healthy and mobile such as exercise classes at the Senior Center that are for those you are able bodied. There is a real lack in this area of aerobics, strength training, flexibility, yoga, tai chi, etc. for those who do not need to sit in chairs to exercise or who use walkers or canes. If the variety of programs offered by the senior center served those "younger" seniors, more people might use the services.

Would love to see the canoe rental and haunted forest return to our parks. Also, concerned at the number of transit buses that run nearly empty each day.

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Special Meeting - Medical Marihuana

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL:

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at Portage City Hall, Council Chambers, for the purpose of considering an emergency ordinance and resolution of intent concerning Medical Marihuana Facilities.

It is recommended that City Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. at Portage City Hall, Council Chambers, for the purpose of considering an emergency ordinance and resolution of intent concerning Medical Marihuana Facilities.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments:

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: "Half-Mile" Liquor License Rule

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: n/a

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information Only

At the City Council meeting of October 24, 2017, a petitioner presented to the City Council advocating that the City Council support the reinstatement of the One Half Mile Rule, the rule that was promulgated originally by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission some 27 years ago, that required and limited the distance between specially designated liquor distributor licenses to not less than 2,640 feet, except under particular conditions that, after demonstration, allowed the Commission to waive. The rule, known colloquially as the "1/2 mile Rule" was ostensibly designed to prevent the concentration of liquor stores in a particular area. The Rule created value with the existing licensees and the rule's recession which has occurred this fall, has dramatically reduced the value to those license holders. As a result, there has been an effort to reinstate the 1/2 mile Rule through legislation rather than the reinstatement of the rule by the Liquor Control Commission.

I spoke with Brandt Iden, Portage's Representative to the Michigan House. Representative Iden also serves as the Chair of the Regulatory Reform Committee. He is not in favor of utilizing a statute to reinstate the 1/2 Mile Rule. He opposes the proposed statute for two reasons. First, he sees the proposed legislation as contrary to healthy economic principles of free market competition. Second, he does not want to establish a precedent of statutorily substitution for the rule making process which appropriately sits with the various agencies.

FUNDING: N/A

Attachments: 1. N/A

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

October 23, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, October 23, 2017, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Van Antwerp in Conference Room 1 at the Administration Building, 8107 Mustang Drive. He welcomed an audience of 14 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Kurt Droppers, Terri Novaria, Rusty Rathburn, Celeste Shelton-Harris, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: None

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Dr. Shelton-Harris, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Curriculum and Professional Development Report. Mr. Michael Huber, Director of Curriculum, reported on the MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) structure; vision and mission; the tiered approach for additional student support; goals and criteria to alert parents about deficiencies; high school level class options and one-on-one supports. Trustees thanked Mr. Huber for his informative presentation.

Energy Program Update. Mr. Steve Phelps, Maintenance Coordinator and Energy Specialist, provided an overview of cumulative cost savings for the District as well as completed and future energy savings projects.

Change Order Summary. Mr. David Skinner, Owners Representative from Walbridge, noted the revisions made to the reporting document and informed Trustees the next Change Order would be brought to the Board in November.

Project Update. Mr. Skinner shared an update on the construction progress at the Central High School Natatorium, North Middle School, and the Northern Athletic Event Facility.

Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Bielang recognized Mr. Peter Marsiglia, a retired District Administrator who, after retiring in 2002, had been serving as an Expulsion Hearing Officer. He thanked Mr. Marsiglia for his service to the District and wished him well. The Superintendent thanked all involved with the Central High School Last Night Under the Lights event. It was a wonderful celebration and well attended. Superintendent Bielang also discussed attending the recent Central High School Hall of Fame ceremony. He shared news of the successful band seasons for Central High and Northern High and wished all the individual and teams success in post-season competition.

Financial Report. Mrs. Karla Colestock, Director of Finance, shared the financial report for the three month period ending September 30, 2017. She also briefed Trustees on the membership count, audit report, District submissions to the state and hiring of retirement replacements.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Van Antwerp opened the comments and communications portion of the meeting and asked if there were any citizens who would like to speak to the Board. Dr. Shelton-Harris explained guidelines the Board uses for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Phil Stinchcomb, 1607 Bellaire Ave., a citizen, thanked District teachers and administrators for the quality education his children received. He noted he is a candidate for Portage City Council. Should he be elected, he looks forward to collaborating with the District and would focus on creating safer school crossings.

President Van Antwerp thanked Mr. Stinchcomb for his comments and opened the floor for Board comments.

Mrs. Willson commented that Northern High School will be hosting Central High football for the 2018/19 season allowing for construction of the new Central Athletic Event Facility.

Mr. Droppers shared highlights from the Portage Central Hall of Fame 2017 induction ceremony he attended.

Dr. Shelton-Harris commented on the positive MLive article about the Northern stadium.

Mr. Rathburn echoed Dr. Shelton-Harris' comments about the MLive article.

President Van Antwerp informed the audience the Policy Committee meeting is rescheduled for November 16, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. He also reminded Trustees of the next Policy Governance Retreat that will take place on Monday, November 13, 2017, at 4 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Van Antwerp presented the following Consent Agenda items for approval by the Board of Education: Minutes of the September 25, 2017, Regular Business Meeting and October 9, 2017, Committee of the Whole Work Session Meeting.

There being no objections to items, motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mr. Droppers, seconded by Dr. Shelton-Harris, that the Board of Education approve the following new teacher appointments: Mr. Tom Maihofer, Ms. Miriah Martinez, Mr. Anthony Nacci, Ms. Raelynn Stein, and Ms. Jordan Appleyard, as presented.

Mr. Bradley Galin, Human Resources Director, shared background information on the new teachers.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mrs. Novaria, that the Board of Education approves the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation, as presented.

Dr. Shelton-Harris read the Proclamation for the record.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM

The Board discussed the Michigan Association of School Boards Amended Resolutions and Bylaw Proposals. President Van Antwerp highlighted proposed Resolution Amendments and Bylaw proposals noting he and Mrs. Willson would be voting delegates on behalf of the District. President Van Antwerp and Mrs. Willson received consensus from Trustees to vote in favor of all recommendations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary

**PROCLAMATION
RED RIBBON WEEK
October 23-31, 2017**

WHEREAS, tobacco, alcohol, prescription drug abuse and other drug usage among young people is a serious concern; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that a visible and unified effort of education and prevention be continued to reduce the demand for drugs; and

WHEREAS, children of parents who talk to their teens about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't; and

WHEREAS, Portage Public Schools works in partnership with the Portage Department of Public Safety to offer Red Med boxes for the safe disposal of unwanted prescription medication to reduce access to prescription drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth, the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force, and the Portage Public Schools are sponsoring the National Red Ribbon Campaign offering citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the National Red Ribbon Campaign will be celebrated in communities throughout America during "**Red Ribbon Week**", October 23-31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, business, government, law enforcement, schools, religious institutions, service organizations, youth, physicians, senior citizens, the military, sports teams, and individuals will demonstrate their commitment to drug-free, healthy lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long campaign; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools does hereby proclaim October 23-31, 2017 as **RED RIBBON WEEK**, and encourage Portage citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities, showing our commitment to a drug-free community through education about the dangers of drug abuse, and by setting a good example.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools encourages all citizens to pledge: **The future is key, so stay drug free.**

Proclaimed this 23rd day of October, 2017
Portage Public School Board of Education

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY GOVERNANCE RETREAT AND
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION**

November 13, 2017

The Policy Governance Retreat meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, November 13, 2017, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Van Antwerp in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the Administration Building, 8107 Mustang Drive.

Board Trustees Present: Kurt Droppers, Terri Novaria, Celeste Shelton-Harris, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Board Members Absent: Rusty Rathburn

Administration Present: Mark Bielang

Others Present: Gary Goscenski, Perspectives Consulting

POLICY GOVERNANCE RETREAT

Mr. Goscenski facilitated Board discussion pertaining to the Prioritizing / Processing Bond Project Enhancements; the Board of Education Actions Relative to Legislative Matters and Continued Discussions about High Expectations.

The Policy Governance Retreat adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION

The work session meeting of the Board of Education of the Portage Public Schools held on Monday, November 13, 2017, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Van Antwerp in Conference Room 1 at the Administration Building, 8107 Mustang Drive. He welcomed an audience of 15 people and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Trustees Present: Kurt Droppers, Terri Novaria, Rusty Rathburn, Celeste Shelton-Harris, Bo Snyder, Randy Van Antwerp and Joanne Willson

Board Trustees Absent: None

REVISIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion offered by Mrs. Willson, seconded by Mr. Snyder, that the Board of Education approve the agenda as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Monitoring Report 1.1, Global Ends (State Measures). Superintendent Bielang welcomed Mr. Michael Huber, Director of Curriculum, to present the State Measures. Mr. Huber provided a breakdown of the student growth percentiles for student groups and sub-groups, and responded to Trustee questions.

Bond Budget Update. Mr. Ron Herron, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, shared the October 2017 Financial Update for Bond Change Order #3. Mr. Herron narrated Mr. Huber's drone footage of the building progress at North Middle School, the Northern Athletic Event Facility and the Central High School Natatorium. Mr. Herron updated Trustees on the furniture pilot currently underway in four classrooms at North Middle School noting the District will also be piloting four classrooms with this furniture at Central Middle School. Mr. Dan Rathburn, Project Manager from OAK, informed Trustees of bids and timelines for Bond Bid Package #3, which includes Central Middle School and the Central High School Athletic Event Facility.

COMMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS

President Van Antwerp opened the comments and communications portion of the meeting and asked if there were any citizens who would like to speak to the Board. Seeing no one come forward, President Van Antwerp opened the floor to comments from fellow Board members.

President Van Antwerp noted he and Mrs. Willson were representatives of the District at the recent Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Delegate Assembly. He reported on attending both the MASB Delegate Assembly and the Annual Leadership Conference. President Van Antwerp reminded Trustees of the Board Policy Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Summer Tax Resolution. Mrs. Karla Colestock, Director of Finance, shared details on the Resolution that authorizes the Portage Public Schools to continue their summer tax collections in 2018.

Governance Policy 4.0, Global Governance-Management Connection, and 4.1, Unity of Control. President Van Antwerp reviewed the Policies and requested Trustees contact him if any updates were necessary.

Operational Policy Revisions. Superintendent Bielang provided background information on the proposed new, revised and replacement Operational Policies included in this update, prepared and reviewed by NEOLA's legal counsel for statutory compliance and further reviewed by appropriate District Administrators.

Recommended Van Purchases. Mr. Ron Herron, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, shared the proposed recommendation to purchase three (3) 2018 Ford Transit Wagon 8 Passenger vans from Seelye Ford of Kalamazoo in the amount of \$84,027.00. These vans have a raised roof for easier access for passengers. The cost for this purchase will come from the 2017/18 General Fund budget.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion offered by Mrs. Novaria, seconded by Mr. Droppers, that the Board of Education accept the Monitoring Report – Policy 2.2, Treatment of Staff, as a reasonable interpretation and evidence of compliance with Policy, as presented.

Superintendent Bielang provided background details on the updated Monitoring Report and responded to Trustee questions.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mr. Droppers, seconded by Mrs. Willson, that the Board of Education accept Monitoring Report – Policy 2.3, Compensation and Benefits, as a reasonable interpretation and evidence of compliance with Policy, as presented.

Superintendent Bielang shared a brief overview of the Monitoring Report.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion offered by Mrs. Willson, seconded by Mr. Droppers, that the Board of Education approve the nomination of the following parents: Ms. Patti Chen and Ms. Sarah Baird, to the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee at the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency. The appointments are for three-year terms, which will expire in 2020, as presented.

Dr. Jeanine Mattson-Gearhart, Director of Special Education, highlighted details regarding the nomination of two District parents.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna Kent
Recording Secretary

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager



SUBJECT: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Upgrade - Sole Source

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL: Kendra Gwin, Deputy Director of Transportation & Utilities

ACTION RECOMMENDED: That City Council:

1. award a contract to Perceptive Controls, Incorporated, to design, furnish, program and install program logic controllers and radios for the SCADA system at a not-to-exceed amount of \$567,767 and
2. approve a budget amendment of \$200,000 from the Sewer Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund

and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

The 2015-2016 Capital Improvement Program budget included a project to upgrade half of the Sanitary Sewer Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The SCADA system is a control interface between well fields, sanitary sewer lift stations and the utility operation located in the Department of Public Services (DPS) building. The SCADA system controls and monitors operation and performance at 56 sanitary sewer lift stations, 2 water towers, the Garden Lane Water Treatment Facility and 20 water production wells in the city. The system provides a warning notification when a malfunction occurs at a sanitary sewer lift station, water tower, treatment facility or water production well house.

When the current SCADA system was installed in 2001, the system was upgraded from utilizing land telephone lines to communicate between the utility facilities and the SCADA control panel to a more reliable and technologically superior wireless radio system. In addition to being more reliable, the use of the wireless system realized an estimated cost savings of \$1,020,000 in telephone charges over the 16-year life of the system.

The SCADA system uses a Master Program Logic Controller (PLC) to communicate wirelessly between the central computer located at the Department of Public Services and the individual PLCs at the seventy-eight remote utility facilities located throughout the city. The existing remote PLCs and radios are obsolete and no longer manufactured. As a result, maintenance of the PLCs are becoming more difficult and costly. Since the installation of the SCADA system in 2001, technology has continued to improve and the utility has acquired an exclusive licensed frequency from the Federal Communication Commission Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. With the change in operating frequency, new radio units are required at the remote locations.

In 2014, Perceptive Controls, Incorporated was awarded a contract to replace and update the SCADA equipment for the water system with new PLCs, radios, and other appurtenances. With few exceptions, the lift station's current SCADA system communicates through low power unlicensed 900 MHZ radios. Because the radios operate on very low power, they transmit by line of sight and repeat off antennas on the water towers to communicate with the Master PLC at the DPS building. Phase 2 of the SCADA upgrade involves upgrading the SCADA equipment of lift stations that repeat off Haverhill Water Tower to coincide with the Northwest Water Storage Facility Project. Phase 3 of the SCADA upgrade for lift stations that repeat off Pineview Water Tower is planned for fiscal year 2021-22.

On November 16, 2017, one proposal was received for the Phase 2 SCADA system upgrade from Perceptive Controls, Incorporated in the amount of \$349,650. Due to a price savings by purchasing in bulk, increased engineering productivity and mobilization reduction, Perceptive Controls, Incorporated also proposed an alternate proposal of \$567,767 to complete both the Phase 2 and Phase 3 SCADA upgrade. Completing both Phase 2 and Phase 3 would eliminate all obsolete SCADA equipment and save the utility approximately \$250,000 in capital and maintenance costs.

Perceptive Controls, Incorporated is the only service provider to have expertise and comprehensive understanding of the City of Portage software and program logic. Staff has carefully reviewed the proposal received from Perceptive Controls, Incorporated, in the amount of \$567,767 and the cost is reasonable for the needed equipment, installation work and programming.

It is recommended that City Council accept the alternate proposal submitted by Perceptive Controls, Incorporated, to design, furnish, program and install radios for the SCADA system at a total cost not to exceed \$567,767, approve a budget amendment from the Sewer Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

FUNDING: Funds for this contract are available in the Capital Improvement Program project account and Sewer Fund.

Attachments: 1. Bid Tabulation

TABULATION OF PROPOSALS

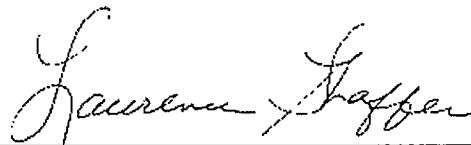
NOVEMBER 16, 2017

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Perceptive Controls, Inc. 140 East Bridge Street Plainwell, MI 49080	\$349,650	\$567,767

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

1. Communication from the City Manager regarding the 2017 Community Survey – Information Only.



Laurence Shaffer, City Manager

cc: Rob Boulis, Deputy City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Laurence Shaffer, City Manager
SUBJECT: 2017 Portage Community Survey Results



David Hartmann, Ph.D. and the members of his team at the Kercher Center for Social Research, Western Michigan University, delivered to the administration the results of the 2017 Portage Community Survey on November 7, 2017. Given that the survey contains responses to questions posed on a number of topics anticipated to be discussed by the City Council in the not too distant future, I thought that a conversation with Professor Hartmann about the survey and how the results might be interpreted would be important.

I discussed the survey results with Professor Hartmann on November 21, 2017. He said that clearly the responders were highly satisfied with Portage city services. However, he urged caution in interpreting the survey results. He called the survey results a “first blush” and added that the responses were an “important opportunity” to further investigate how citizens feel on particular topics that may be considered by the City Council. He said that the survey results may provide “some indication that you may wish to explore an issue further”. He advised that the results should be handled with “caution” and warned against “over analyzing” the results. Clearly, Professor Hartmann wanted to highlight that the survey results should be considered as only a first step in a much longer process of determining how our citizens feel.

With those caveats, I would recommend that the 2017 Portage Community Survey results be released to the full City Council as soon as possible.