



Pittsfield Charter Township

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UM-Dearborn's iLab's eCities research recognizes Pittsfield Charter Township for developing a positive entrepreneurial climate

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP (November 9, 2017) – Pittsfield Charter Township has, once again, been recognized for its successes and efforts in contributing to Michigan's entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. This year, Pittsfield Township was honored as a four star community along with 102 other communities across the state.

For the third consecutive year, Pittsfield Township has been chosen to be part of a select group of communities in the State of Michigan and awarded the Four-Star Communities designation by the University of Michigan (Dearborn) e-Cities program. 4-star Best Practices communities are recognized for clearly identifying and implementing a vision to foster economic success, including articulating a placemaking strategy.

“Pittsfield Township's commitment, over the past nine years, to investing in local businesses along with its focus on providing outstanding quality of life that attracts diverse talent to meet the needs of our community, began paying dividends a few years ago. As we stay true to this commitment, we continue to reap the benefits not only for our community but also through being recognized now as a regional leader in leveraging placemaking strategies to promote economic development.” Noted Pittsfield Township Supervisor Mandy Grewal.

The eCities initiative is part of University of Michigan Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. The program uniquely researches factors that contribute to economic success at the local level. In 2017, the eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments and cost of doing business within the community. For example, over the five-year period, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 2 percent per year by purchasing public safety equipment and improving sidewalks and other infrastructure.

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, previously used data supplied by the participants. This year's shift to reviewing publicly available data was implemented to simplify the process for communities.

“While accounting for only about 15 percent of the cities and townships in Michigan, the 277 communities analyzed are home to nearly 70 percent of the population and 85 percent of the state’s commercial property,” Davis said. “By analyzing these high-performing communities, our goal is to showcase what cities and townships are doing to spur growth and how we can continue to support their efforts in developing business and encouraging entrepreneurs.”



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