



Pittsfield Charter Township

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Office of the Supervisor

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A few days ago, Governor Whitmer extended the StayHomeStaySafe Executive Order through May 28th. She did so in the midst of public protests and outcry by some because she understands that her job is not to be swayed by the views of a vociferous minority but to serve all residents. She has a vision to keep our communities safe, despite the detractors, and she will not waiver from it.

That is what leadership looks like: outlining a vision and delivering on it even though there will be those that try to leverage your decisions for other purposes. As your Supervisor, that has been my philosophy: to outline a vision, in partnership with you, and deliver on it. In fact, as I compiled the spring edition of the Pittsfield Post this past week, I read the note I wrote to you in the very first edition of the bi-annual newsletter, a decade ago.

The note states that “I see the role of township government as being more than reactive. Indeed, I believe it is essential for leadership to outline a vision for the future of our community. A vision that guides our advocacy efforts to place Pittsfield Township as a leading engine of economic and environmental prosperity in the region. To that end, I am working aggressively on economic development strategies, forging partnerships to maximize efficiencies, developing a non-motorized network, and identifying eco-friendly initiatives. I have also initiated a 12-18 month process of public outreach and engagement for the purpose of producing a new master plan for Pittsfield Township. This newsletter marks the beginning of a fresh chapter in our local government with leadership that is passionate about improving the quality of life for all township residents.”

(<http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/post>)

That 12-18 month process culminated in the adoption of the 2010 Pittsfield Master Plan, which envisioned striking a balance between development and preservation so we may have a strong economic base to weather economic downturns such as what we were experiencing then (the Great Recession) and what we are facing now (the Great Pandemic) while, at the same time, pursuing policies that hard-code “sustainability into the DNA of [Pittsfield Township’s] work processes and products.” (<http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/masterplan>)

So, as we deal with the multitude of emotional, physical, and financial ramifications of the pandemic for ourselves, as individuals and families, and for our communities, please rest assured that your support of our work over the past decade has allowed us to deliver for you a local government that is both financially strong (with a AA+ bond rating) and committed to continually improving on the quality of life for all, not just some. Even though this vision and commitment requires us to, sometimes, make tough decisions and take criticism of our work from a few, we will continue to approach the tough decisions in a thoughtful and deliberative manner and we will RISE to the challenges that come our way, in partnership with you, so we may deliver on a blueprint for **Respectful, Inclusive, and Sustainable Equity** in Pittsfield Township.

As all of us partner with our Governor to deliver on her vision to StayHomeStaySafe to SaveLives, please remember to be patient and kind with yourselves and each other.

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
