



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF LANSING
PROCEEDINGS OF JANUARY 11, 2010**

City Council Chambers
Lansing, Michigan

The City Council of the City of Lansing met in regular session and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Robinson

PRESENT: Council Members Dunbar, Hewitt, Houghton, Jeffries, Robinson, Wood, Yorko

ABSENT: Council Member Quinney

The Council observed a moment of Meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Robinson

SPECIAL CEREMONIES

- Special Ceremonies

1. **Mayoral Presentation; Recognition of Woodcreek Elementary Students in the Statewide Robotics Competition**

Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero, spoke about Woodcreek Elementary Students in the Statewide Robotics Competition.

Diane Graham stated that her students created a Trishaw, which is a combination of a rickshaw and a tricycle.

Jerry Ambrose asked why the students called themselves brickheads.

A student explained that brickheads was coined because the competition uses Lego® pieces.

Jerry Ambrose passed out certificates to the students present.

2. **Council and Mayoral Presentation; Recognition of the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission's Annual celebration in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Jerry Ambrose announced all of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events.

Terry Singleton, Director of the Human Resources Department, spoke about the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission's Annual celebration and invited everyone to attend.

Elaine Hardy spoke about the keynote speaker, Mrs. Juanita Abernathy.

Terry Singleton introduced committee members present.

Jerry Ambrose read the following Mayoral Proclamation:

WHEREAS: It is a privilege to join the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission as it celebrates the Silver Anniversary of hosting the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday Luncheon for the past 25 years to commemorate his achievements toward human mankind and civil rights for all; and

WHEREAS: In his efforts to dream big to reach and secure the goal of freedom and equality, the advancements made by Dr. King to mend broken fences, and uplift humanity rather than destroy it, are acknowledged and joined by the Lansing community; and

WHEREAS: This nation still strives to reach its goal of freedom and its challenges to obtain and insure the privileges and rights which support the human dignity of all individuals has made significant progress but still has not yet been totally fulfilled; and

WHEREAS: We are aware that our efforts to achieve those unalienable rights that are endemic to this community, nation and mankind are essential, and can only be achieved when we unite with each other through service and take to heart those words expressed by Dr. King, which state:

"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem, therefore whatever your life's work is do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better; whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality"; and

WHEREAS: the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission has adopted the theme of "Celebrating the Dream through Unity and Service" for the year 2010. In support of this theme, the City of Lansing commits itself to continuing the dream in efforts of achieving freedom and equality for all.

NOW THEREFORE, I, VIRG BERNERO, Mayor of the City of Lansing, by the power vested in me, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 18, 2010 as:

"DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY"

in Lansing, I urge all citizens to join with me in living the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

President Robinson spoke about Mrs. Juanita Abernathy and thanked the commissioners for all of their hard work.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND CITY CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Hewitt spoke about the Lansing for Caesar Chavez Committee's meeting to change part of Grand River Ave. to be named after Caesar Chavez.

Council Member Wood spoke about the 2035 plan for transportation, census job hiring and a Community Mental Health forum on treating bipolar disorders.

Council Member Dunbar announced master plan phase two meetings.

Council Member Yorko thanked all of those who gave public comments.

President Robinson thanked those who attended the recent 2nd Saturdays meeting for residents of the 3rd Ward and announced the next meeting. She also announced a Colonial Village meeting with the census bureau and Delta Sigma Theta's census meeting. She distributed the following City Council Committee Assignments:

**Lansing City Council
Committee Assignments
2010 Schedule**

Committee on Ways and Means*Carol Wood, Chair**Eric Hewitt, Vice Chair Staff: Diana**Tina Houghton, Member***Committee on Public Safety***Carol Wood, Chair**Eric Hewitt, Vice Chair Staff: Diana**Jessica Yorko, Member***Committee on Intergovernmental Relations***Kathie Dunbar, Chair**Tina Houghton, Vice Chair Staff: Danielle**Brian Jeffries, Member***Committee of the Whole***A'Lynne Robinson, President Staff: Terese**Kathie Dunbar, Vice President***Committee on Development & Planning***Brian Jeffries, Chair**Jessica Yorko, Vice Chair Staff: Diana**Derrick Quinney, Member***Committee on General Services***Derrick Quinney, Chair**Tina Houghton, Vice Chair Staff: Terese**Carol Wood, Member***Committee on Public Services***Eric Hewitt, Chair**Jessica Yorko, Vice Chair Staff: Diana**Brian Jeffries, Member***Committee on Personnel – Call of the Chair***Kathie Dunbar, Chair Staff: Terese/Diana**A'Lynne Robinson, Vice Chair**Derrick Quinney, Member**Jessica Yorko, Member***Other Boards and Commissions**

Employee/Police and Fire Retirement Boards: *Carol Wood*
 EDC/Brownfield Re-development/Tax Increment Financing Authority/
 Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors: *Brian Jeffries*
 Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau: *Tina Houghton*
 Planning Board: *Brian Jeffries, A'Lynne Robinson, Derrick Quinney*
 Capitol Area Michigan Works: *Derrick Quinney, A'Lynne Robinson, Kathie Dunbar*
 Tri-County Commission on Aging: *Tina Houghton, A'Lynne Robinson*
 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: *Carol Wood, Eric Hewitt, & Jessica Yorko*
 Capital Region Airport Authority: *Brian Jeffries*
 Downtown Lansing, Inc: *Jessica Yorko*
 Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority: *Kathie Dunbar, Eric Hewitt*
 Principal Shopping District: *Jessica Yorko, Eric Hewitt*
 Community Corrections Advisory Board: *Carol Wood*
 Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan: *Carol Wood*
 City of Lansing and Charter Township of Lansing Liaison Commission: *A'Lynne Robinson*

City Clerk Swope announced a homeowner workshop meeting and stated that City Hall will be closed this Friday for a furlough day and closed Monday in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

COMMUNITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPEAKER REGISTRATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Clerk Swope announced that the public comment registration form(s) for those intending to address Council on legislative matters will be collected and that only those persons who have fully completed the form(s) will be permitted to speak.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero, spoke about the city's furlough days and their affects on the city's operations. He also spoke about a Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) study of transportation needs from the Capitol Building to Meridian Mall. He spoke about the upcoming Mobile Food Pantry and stated that the new City Market is now open.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- Public Comment on Legislative Matters:

Legislative Matters included the following public hearings:

1. In consideration of Brownfield Redevelopment Plan #47; 1118 S. Washington Ave.
2. In consideration of the Establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for property located at 1118 S. Washington Ave.
3. In consideration of an Application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for property located at 1118 S. Washington Ave.

Council Member Jeffries gave a brief overview of the Public Hearings.

Willy Williams of P.O. Box 11042 congratulated the Human Relations and Community Services Department for their Annual celebration in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

John Pollard of 1718 Blair St. spoke in opposition to all three public hearings.

Darnell E. Oldham, Sr. of 3815 Berwick Dr. spoke in opposition to all three public hearings.

REFERRAL OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. In consideration of Brownfield Redevelopment Plan #47; 1118 S. Washington Ave.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

2. In consideration of the Establishment of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for property located at 1118 S. Washington Ave.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

3. In consideration of an Application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for property located at 1118 S. Washington Ave.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Hewitt asked that item 2a be removed from the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION #2010-002

BY COUNCILMEMBER KATHIE DUNBAR

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the City of Lansing, through the Human Relations and Community Services Department, will be hosting the 29th Annual Memorial Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 13, 2010, entitled "Remember, Celebrate, Act" A day on ... Not a day off; and

WHEREAS, this day should be a day of participation, wherein all citizens contribute something positive to their community in keeping with Dr. King's lifelong work toward peace, justice, and equality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society but who also led a movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's "beloved community" was not a lofty utopian goal to be confused with the rapturous image of the Peaceable Kingdom, in which lions and lambs coexist in idyllic harmony. Rather, the "beloved community" was for him a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, wishes to congratulate the Human Relations and Community Services Department on their 29th Annual Memorial Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King and encourages all residents of the City of Lansing to share in Dr. King's dream and work toward justice, good will, and brotherhood for all people.

By Council Member Dunbar

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION #2010-003

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission will conduct its 25th Annual Luncheon "Celebrating the Dream through Unity and Service" in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 18, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lansing Center; and

WHEREAS, the Keynote Speaker will be Juanita Abernathy, wife of the late Reverend Ralph David Abernathy and inductee of the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, as a foot soldier in the Civil Rights movement, Juanita Abernathy participated in all of the pivotal protests of the era. She helped rally the black community in Montgomery, Alabama as her husband Rev. Ralph David Abernathy and Martin Luther King Jr. led the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and 1956; and

WHEREAS, in January 1957, while her husband and Martin Luther King Jr. traveled to Atlanta to establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Juanita and her infant daughter survived the bombing of their home by white supremacists; and

WHEREAS, Juanita continued her activism when she and her family moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 1961, working to spur school desegregation

in the city by enrolling her children in independent white schools; and

WHEREAS, she accompanied her husband to the 1963 March on Washington and walked with him on the front lines of the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Juanita and her husband joined Martin Luther King, Jr. and his wife Coretta and moved into a Chicago slum to protest housing conditions for African Americans in what was the most racially segregated large city in America; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Juanita has traveled around the world speaking about her late husband's leadership role, her own experiences in the struggle, and urging others to continue the fight for justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, she serves on the Board of Trustees for the Morehouse School of Religion, the board of directors for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), and the Atlanta Fulton County League of Women Voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council commends the Greater Lansing Area Holiday Commission for their continued dedication and service to our youth and residents of the City of Lansing and wishes them the best of luck on this uplifting celebration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council commemorates the efforts of Dr. King and encourages all residents of the City of Lansing to share in Dr. King's dream and work toward justice, good will, and brotherhood for all people.

By Council Member Dunbar

Motion Carried

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #2010-004

BY COUNCILMEMBER CAROL WOOD

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Willie Pittman, Jr., son of Mary Lou and the late Willie Pittman, Sr., was born February 10, 1956; and

WHEREAS, he was a lifelong resident of Lansing, a Harry Hill High School graduate, and was employed by General Motors; and

WHEREAS, Willie accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of the New Mount Calvary Baptist Church where he served as a trustee and usher; and

WHEREAS, Willie, Jr., lovingly nicknamed "Bugs" or "J.R." leaves behind his daughter, MaKayla Porter; sons, Antonio and Foster; grandchildren, Dynisti and Zoe; and his mother, Mary Lou Pittman; brother, Michael Pittman; sisters, Vanessa and Adova Bridges; his great Aunt Virginia Barron; aunts, Virginia McClure and Penny Brewer; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, family and friends will gather to honor and celebrate his life on Thursday, December 17, 12:00 p.m. at New Mount Calvary Baptist Church;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the Willie Pittman family and wish them continued health. All will cherish Willie's memory and the joy he brought to the lives of those around him.

By Council Member Wood

Motion Carried

**SPEAKER REGISTRATION FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CITY GOVERNMENT
RELATED MATTERS**

Clerk Swope announced that the public comment registration form(s) for those intending to address Council on City government matters will be collected and that only those persons who have fully completed the form(s) will be permitted to speak.

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND
COMMISSIONS;
COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS;
AND OTHER CITY RELATED MATTERS**

By Council Member Dunbar that all items be considered as being read in full and that President Robinson make the appropriate referrals

Motion Carried

- Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions:
 - a. Letters from the City Clerk providing notice of the placement on file of:
 - i. The City of Lansing's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- ii. A Buy-Sell Agreement between Lansing Community College and the City of Lansing for the sale of the North Capitol Parking Ramp

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- b. Letters from the Mayor re:
 - i. Planning Board recommendations regarding Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Cabaret Parking

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- Communications and Petitions, and Other City Related Matters:
 - a. Letter from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury providing 30 day notice of the requirement to file a deficit elimination plan for the Golf Fund as noted in Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2009

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

- b. Letter from the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission providing 15-Day Notice of an application from Craft Beer, LLC for a New SDM License to be held in conjunction with pending Request to Transfer Ownership of Escrowed 2009 Class C Licensed Business, located at 1020 Trowbridge, East Lansing from Ching Kuei Chiang & Feng-Shan Yang; Transfer Location Governmental Unit under MCL 436.1531(1) to 408 S Washington Sq.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SERVICES

- c. Letter from Joel Ferguson of Capitol Avenue Development, LLC submitting an offer to purchase the North Capitol Avenue Parking Ramp

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- d. Request for Recognition of Non-Profit Status in the City of Lansing submitted by the Southside Community Coalition located at 2101 W. Holmes Rd.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SERVICES AND REFERRED TO THE CITY ATTORNEY

MOTION OF EXCUSED ABSENCE

By Council Member Dunbar

To excuse Council Member Quinney from tonight's proceedings

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENT
ON CITY GOVERNMENT RELATED MATTERS:**

- Loretta Stanaway of 546 Armstrong Rd. spoke about various city matters.
- William Hubbell of 3916 Wedgewood Dr. spoke about the new City Market.
- Theodore Jones of 424 ½ W. Saginaw St. spoke about homelessness.
- Frank S. Curtis X. of 1137 W. Allegan St. spoke about various city matters.
- Willy Williams of P.O. Box 11042 spoke about various city matters.
- Catherine Mercer of 4530 Sycamore St., Holt, spoke about various city matters.
- Ammahad-Shekarakki of 902 W. Willow St. spoke about Malcolm X.
- Carl Calille of 306 Harriet Ave. spoke about various city matters.
- Jody Washington of 521 Nantucket Dr. spoke about various city matters.
- Walter Brown of 1310 Knollwood Ave. spoke in opposition to surveillance cameras.
- Valerie Benjamin-Glove of 605 S. Pennsylvania Ave. spoke about a housing campaign.
- Michael Mercer of 4530 Sycamore St., Holt, spoke about various city matters.
- Bob Gray of 422 Dadson Dr. spoke about various city matters.
- John Pollard of 1718 Blair St. spoke about various city matters.
- Darnell E. Oldham, Sr. of 3815 Berwick Dr. spoke about various city matters.
- Carrie May of 7815 Trestlewood Dr., Delta Twp., spoke about the Lansing Jaycees.

ADJOURNED TIME 8:41 P.M.

CHRIS SWOPE, CITY CLERK