



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
TOWNSHIP BOARD – REGULAR MEETING
February 21, 2023 6:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS
 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE & REFLECTION-MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
 4. TRIBUTE TO MSU-SHADOWS
 5. ROLL CALL
 6. PRESENTATION
 - A. Meridian Township’s Response to MSU
 - B. Introduction of Two New Full-Time EMT/Firefighters
 - C. MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Update
 - D. Township Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan Update
 - E. 2022 Meridian Township Annual Report
 7. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
 8. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT
 9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 10. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 11. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Communications
 - B. Minutes-February 7, 2023 Regular Township Board Meeting
 - C. Bills
 - D. Authorize Letter to FAA-American Airlines (LAN)
 12. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY
 13. HEARINGS
 - A. Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Application
 14. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Ordinance 2023-01 – Rezone 1642 Lake Court – RB to RCC, with a Conditional Rezoning Agreement-Introduction
 - B. Resolution to Call for Legislative Action on Gun Violence Prevention
 - C. Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Meridian Township Fire Fighters Association
 - D. Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Police Officers Association of Michigan
 - E. Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Meridian Township Police Supervisory Unit
 - F. Redesignation of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding
 15. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Recreational Marihuana Ordinances
 - B. Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Application
 - C. BWL Board of Commissioners Appointment
 - D. March 7 Village of Okemos Community Conversation Cancelation
 16. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
 17. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
 18. ADJOURNMENT
-

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Supervisor. Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem and/ or Temporary Clerk if necessary. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting: Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall
Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Update

February 21, 2023

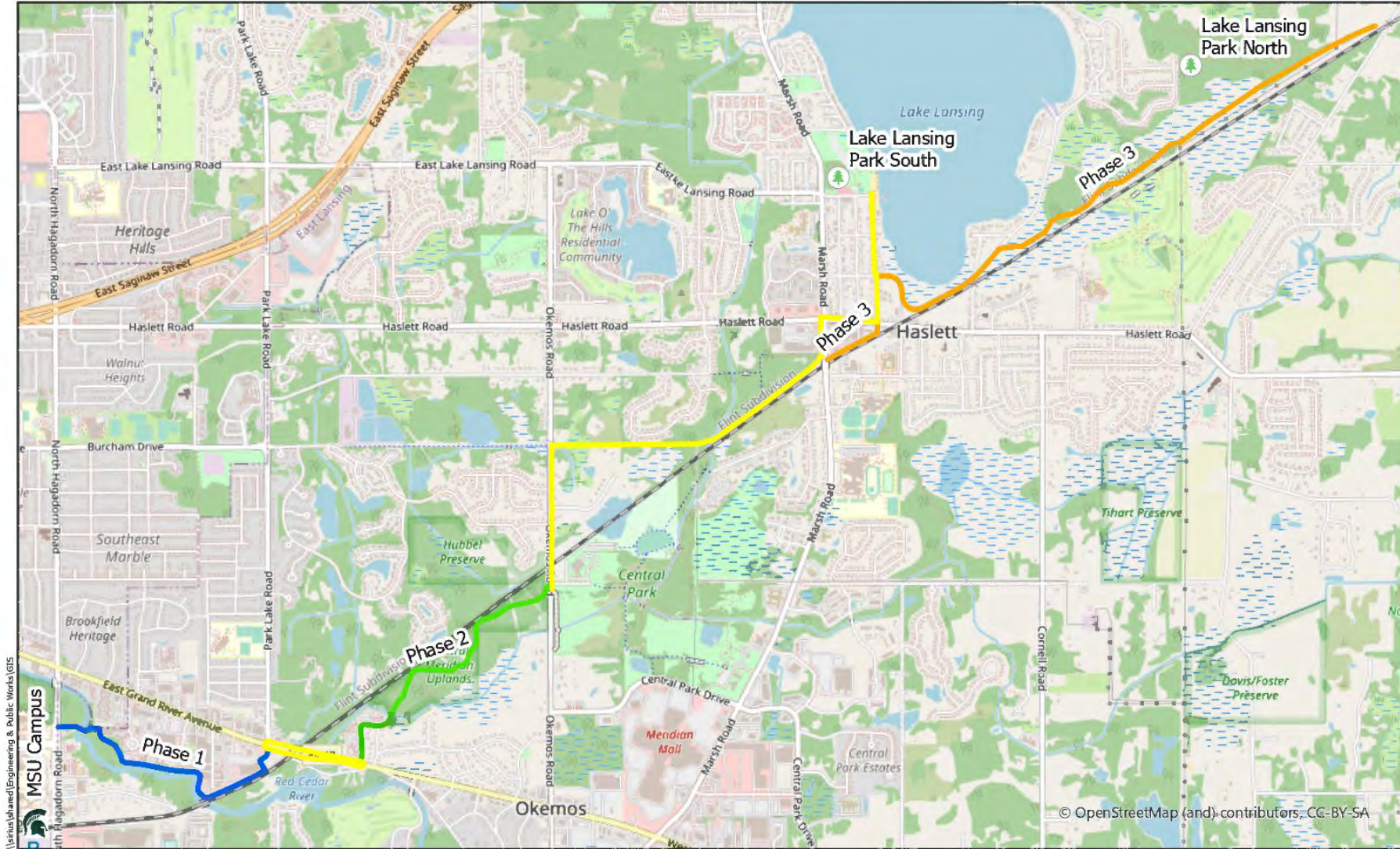


Phase I & II Construction

After many years of hard work to acquire the land, secure the necessary funding, and design the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, we are very excited to announce that we will be constructing Phases I and II in 2023.

Once Phases I and II are completed by the end of this year, users will have a safe and enjoyable option for non-motorized travel between the MSU Campus and Lake Lansing Park South, along approximately five miles of connected pathways and trails.

MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule

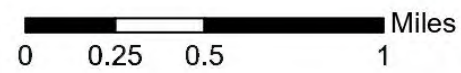


Meridian Township Engineering & Public Works/GIS

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Scale: 1:30,000



- Phase I: Construction anticipated to be completed in July-September of 2023. 1 mile: Begins on the north side of Hagadorn and Shaw Ln Intersection and concludes at the Grand River Ave/Park Lake Rd Intersection.
- Phase II: Construction anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. 1.2 miles: Begins near the Grand River Ave/Campus Hill Dr intersection and concludes near the Okemos Rd & Gaylord Smith Cr intersection.
- Phase III: Design will begin in 2023. Construction timelines will be announced at a later date. 2.3 miles: Begins on Marsh Rd, just south of Haslett Rd, and concludes near Green Rd in the NE corner of the Township.
- Existing trails and pathways that are a part of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail

Questions?
517.853.4440
dpw@meridian.mi.us



Phase I Facts

Phase I is approximately 1 mile long and starts on the north side of the Hagadorn Rd and Shaw St intersection. Phase I concludes at the Grand River Ave and Park Lake Rd intersection.

Phase I includes a pedestrian bridge that will take motorists and bicyclists over the Red Cedar River behind the MSU Community Music School.

The trail will then take users along the banks of the Red Cedar River and the north side of the CN Railroad tracks. The trail then heads north through the Foods for Living parking lot to Grand River Ave and Park Lake Rd intersection.



MSU Campus





Phase I Construction





Phase I Construction





Funding of Phase I

The estimated cost of construction for Phase I is \$3.37 million.

Meridian Township successfully obtained a \$1.7 million federal TAP grant for Phase I. The remaining portion of the project will be funded by the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage and the Township Pathway Millage:

- \$1,320,000 from the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage**
- \$350,000 from the Township Pathway Millage**



Phase I Construction Schedule

Preparation for Phase I construction began in summer of 2022 with tree removals along the trail route.

Construction of the trail began in December of 2022.

We currently anticipate that Phase I will be completed between July-September of 2023.



Phase II Facts

Phase II is 1.2 miles long and begins near the Grand River Ave and Campus Hill Dr intersection. Phase II concludes near the Okemos Rd and Gaylord C Smith Ct. intersection.

Pedestrians and bicyclists will use the Township's existing pathway system to get from the Grand River Ave and Park Lake Rd intersection, where Phase I ends, to the Grand River Ave and Campus Hill Dr intersection where Phase II begins.





Funding of Phase II

Phase II will cost \$381,526 to construct.

This phase is funded by the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage and the Township Pathway Millage:

- Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage: \$322,794**
- Township Pathway Millage: \$58,732**



Phase II Construction Schedule

Construction of Phase II will begin in the next several weeks once we hold a pre-construction meeting with the contractor.

We currently anticipate that Phase II will be completed by the end of 2023.



Phase II

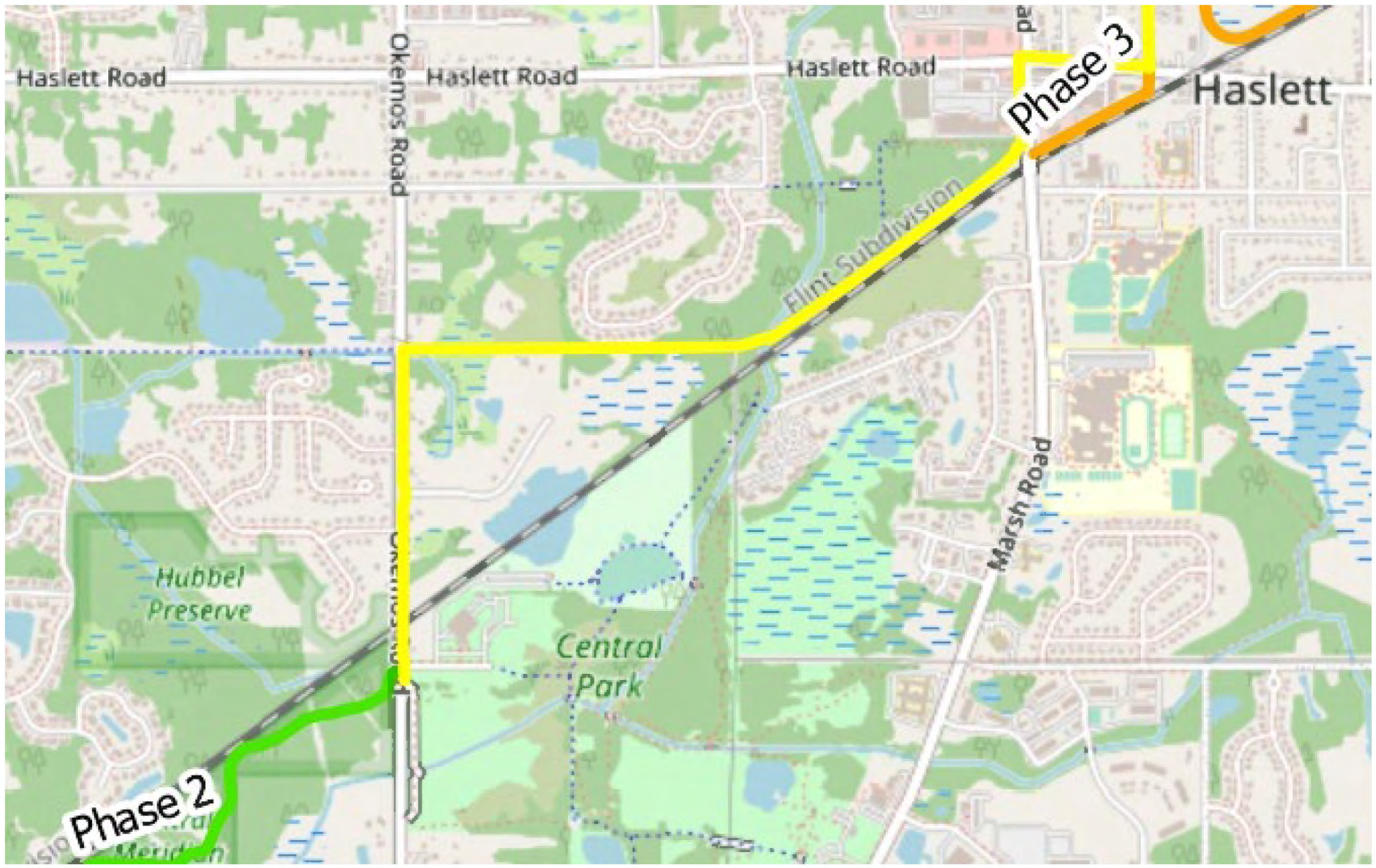




Phase IIB Facts

From the northern end of Phase II on Okemos Rd, users will take the existing 10-foot-wide pathway on the east side of Okemos Rd to the inter-urban pathway.

The Township widened this half-mile stretch of the Okemos Rd pathway for the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail in 2021.





Phase IIB Construction 2021





Phase IIB Constructed in 2021



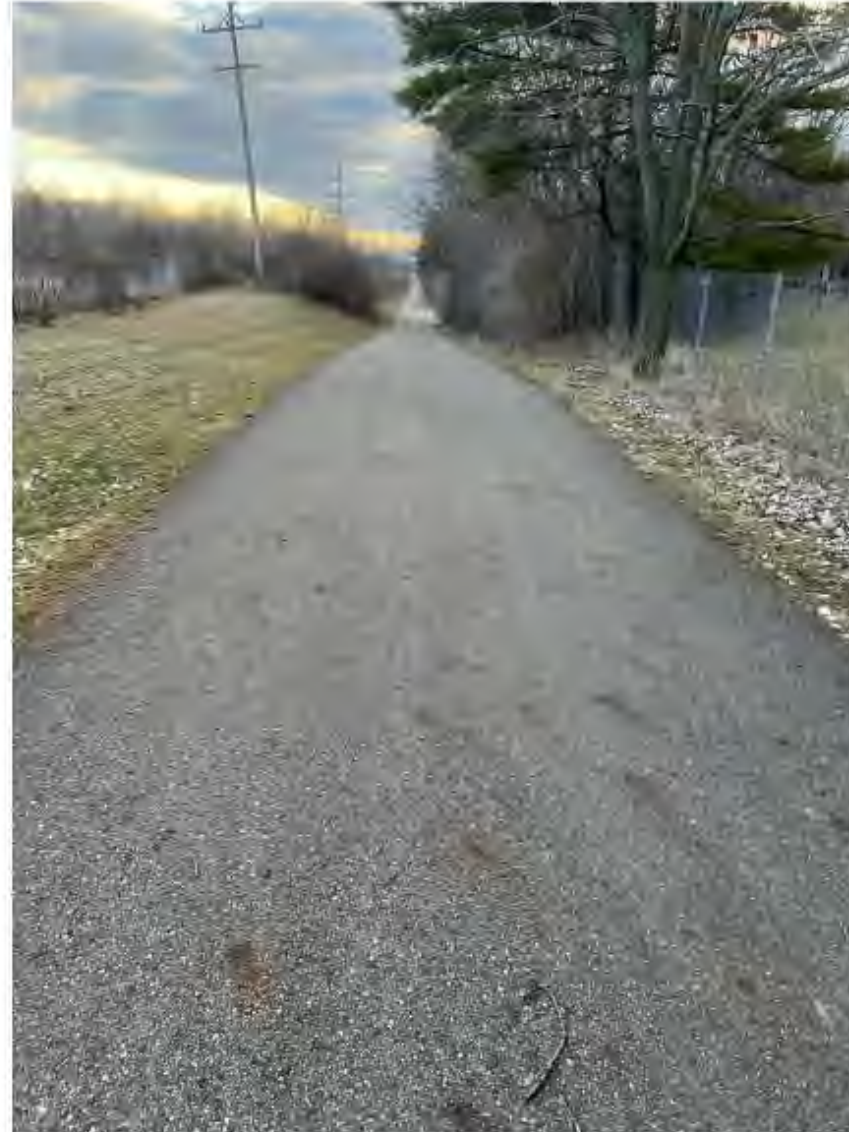


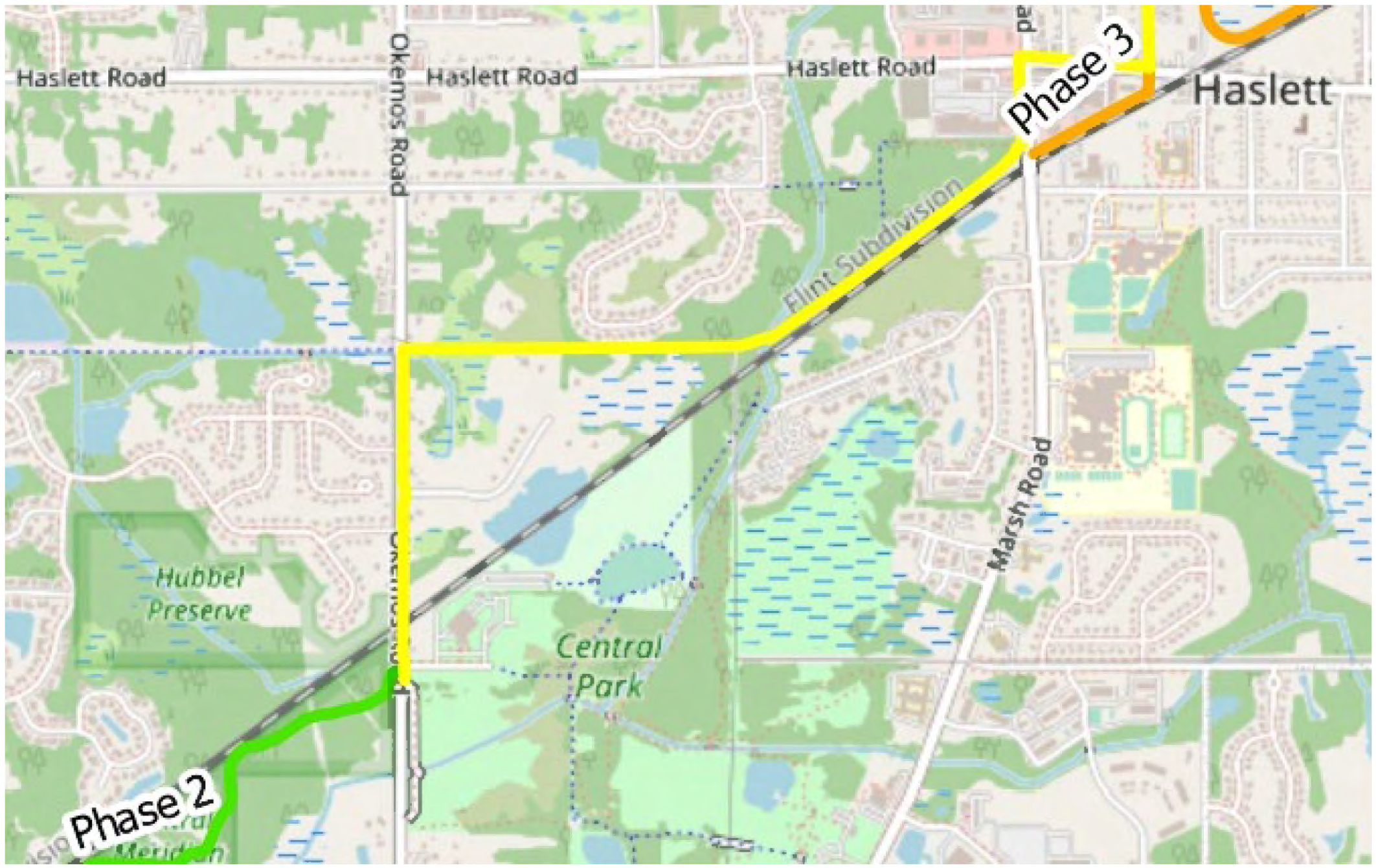
Inter-Urban Trail

Users can then take the existing 1.1-mile inter-urban trail from Okemos Rd to Marsh Rd.



Inter-Urban Trail





Haslett Road

Haslett Road

Haslett Road

Haslett

Okemos Road

Flint Subdivision

Marsh Road

Hubbel Preserve

Central Park

Phase 2

Phase 3



Shaw St Connector

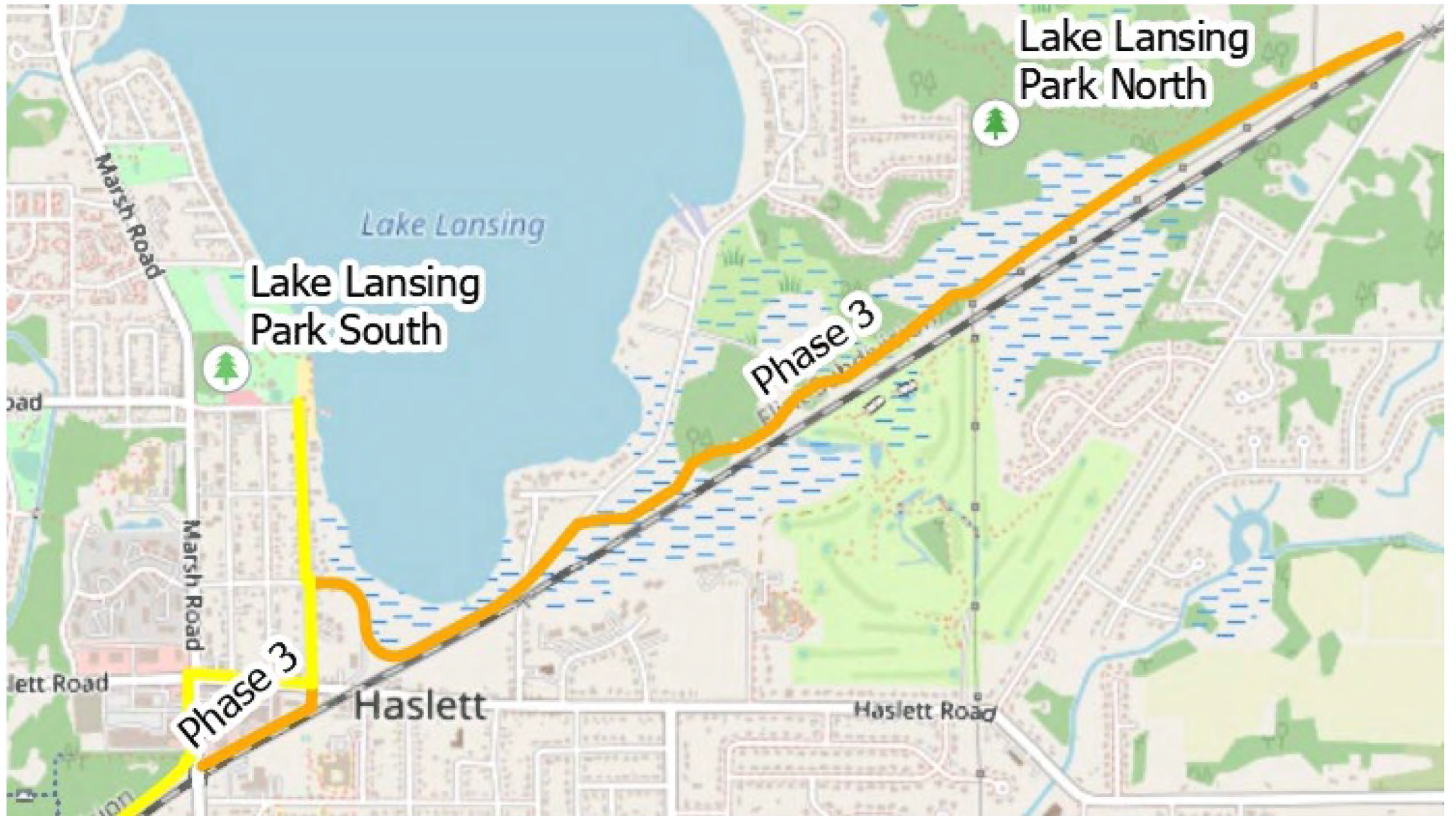
Users can then take the existing pathway system on Marsh Rd and Haslett Rd to Shaw St.

User can then use the Shaw St connector, which was constructed in 2021, to Lake Lansing Park South.



Shaw St Connector





Lake Lansing
Park North

Lake Lansing
Park South

Phase 3

Phase 3

Haslett

Haslett Road

Marsh Road

Lake Lansing

oad

lett Road

Marsh Road

on

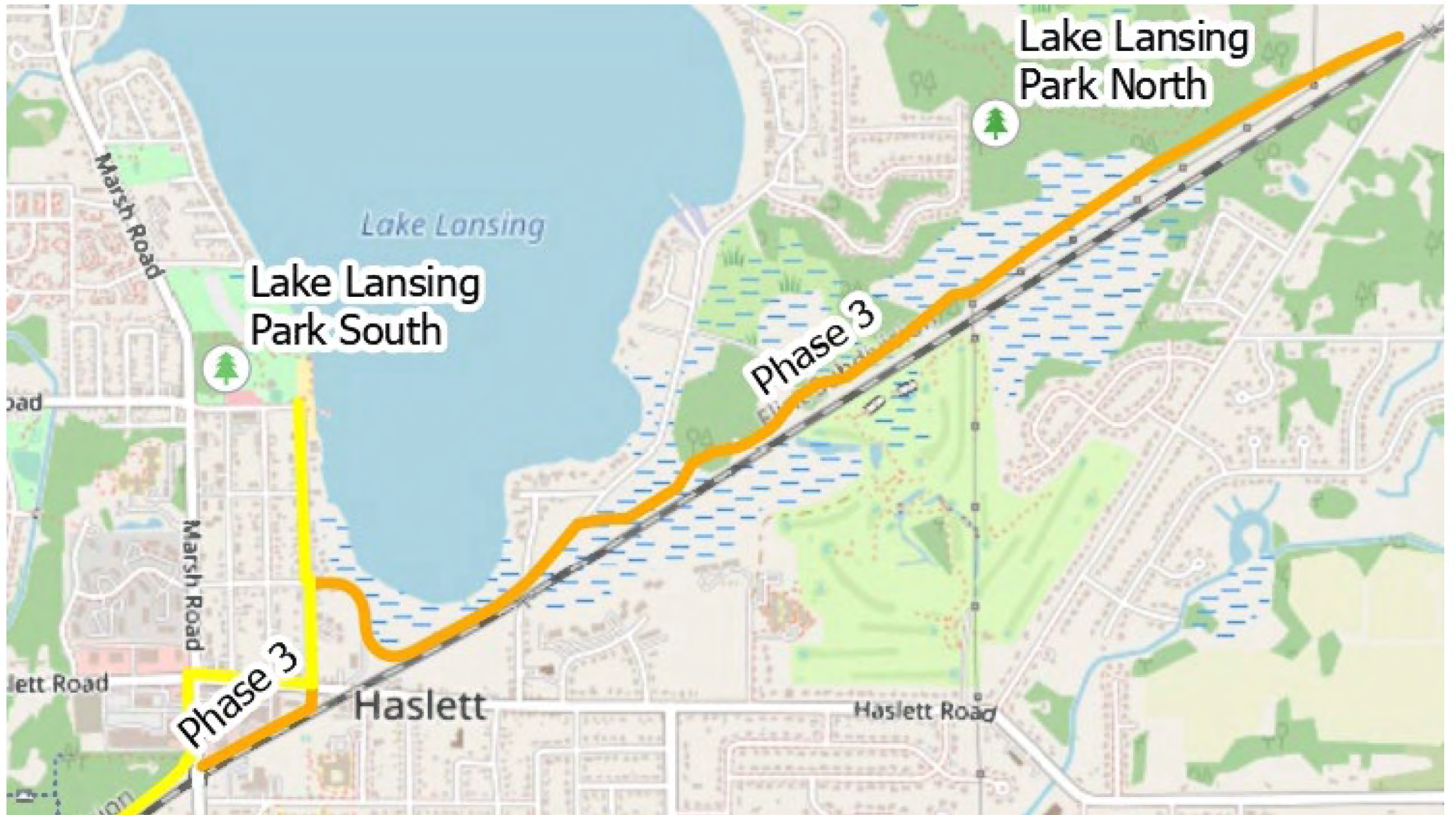


Phase III

The Township also announced that it will begin working on the design and engineering of Phase III in 2023.

This is the final phase of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail and will provide a trail route from Marsh Rd, just south of Haslett Rd, all the way to Green Road in the northeast corner of the Township.

This will provide a connection to Lake Lansing Park North and the trails within this park.



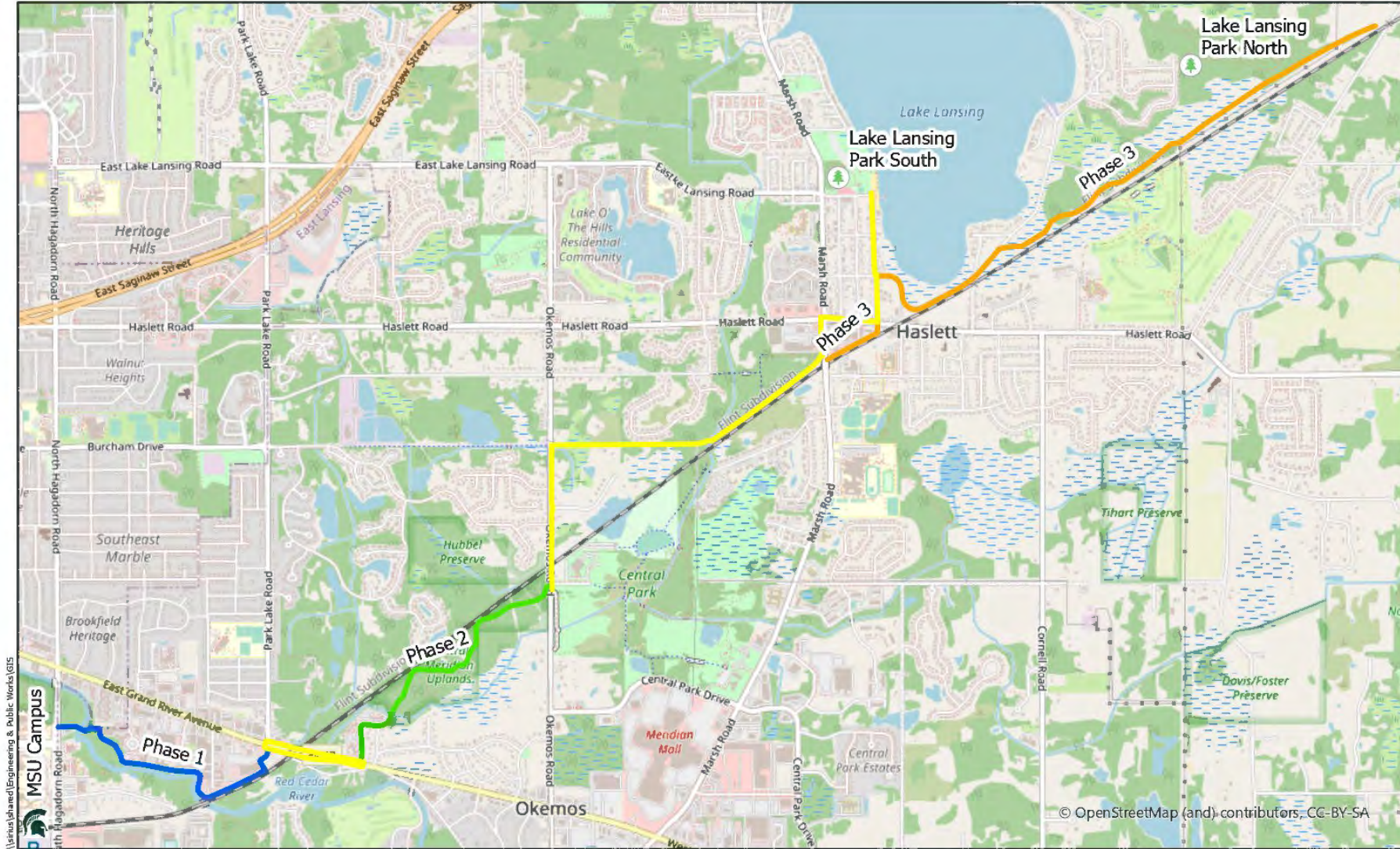


MSU to Lake Lansing Trail

Once all three phases are completed, the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail will provide residents with approximately 6.75 miles of trail system, which will enhance the region's trail system by connecting to the MSU and Lansing River Trails.

We can't wait to celebrate the opening of Phases I and II with the community.

MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule

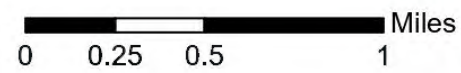


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Questions?
517.853.4440
dpw@meridian.mi.us



**Thank you for your time this evening.
Happy to answer any questions
you may have.**



2022

Annual Report

Charter Township of Meridian



Meridian Township

5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI
48864
517.853.4000

meridian.mi.us

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

Patricia Herring Jackson, Supervisor



Deborah Guthrie, Clerk



Phil Deschaine, Treasurer

**Scott Hendrickson,
Trustee**



**Kathy Ann Sundland,
Trustee**



Courtney Wisinski, Trustee



Marna Wilson, Trustee





To: Board Members

From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager

Date: February 6, 2023

Re: 2022 Annual Report

The Meridian Township Management Team is pleased to present you with the Township's 2022 Annual Report. The enclosed report of departmental activities is meant to satisfy the requirements of the Charter Township Act and provide our residents with a complete overview of 2022 operations. This report is a compilation of activities provided by each department.

A copy of this report will be on file in the Clerk's Office, both libraries and posted on the Township's website at www.meridian.mi.us.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this report. We will continue our efforts in 2023 to work as a team united in spirit for the betterment of our 45,000 Township residents.

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A. INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Work with Ingham County to facilitate a successful replacement of the Okemos Road Bridge. Place an emphasis on traffic control in the adjacent neighborhoods.

Township staff worked diligently to update residents, businesses and visitors regarding the Ingham County Road Department's Okemos Rd Bridge Project. In total, the Township published 28 chronological updates throughout the year on our website (click on the blue "Construction Updates" button when you visit the link). These updates also went out on all of the Township's social media accounts. That is over 2.5 updates per month over the 11 month construction period.

The Ingham County Road Department published three updates on their website. These updates were not published until October, November and December. In terms of total content and information shared, the Township shared more than 10 times the information the Ingham County Road Department shared with the public.

According to the Ingham County Road Department, the winter storm at the end of December pushed construction schedules back again. The new Okemos Road Bridge is now expected to be completed sometime in late February or early March.

The Ingham County Road Department's original schedule called for construction to begin on February 14, 2022 and to be completed by the end of November. The opening of the new bridge to northbound and southbound traffic has been delayed several times:

1. Construction was delayed at the very beginning of the project from February 14 to March 14 due to AT&T being behind on relocating their utilities on the old southbound bridge. AT&T was required to bore conduit under the Red Cedar River to relocate their utilities.
2. According to the Ingham County Road Department, additional delays were caused by weather (we had a lot of rainfall this summer), concrete shortages, and late changes requested by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office (a one-month delay was caused by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office according to the Ingham County Road Department). These delays pushed the opening of the new bridge back to December or January.
3. Most recently, the winter storm at the end of December delayed the pouring of the concrete bridge deck to January, which delayed the opening of the new bridge to February.



Complete year three of the Meridian Township Local Road Improvement Plan. Our PASER rating at the end of 2022 shall be a minimum of 5.50.

Township staff worked diligently to update the community regarding the 2022 local road program construction projects (as well as the remaining 2021 local road projects). Prior to construction, we sent mailers to all of the property owners on the roads that were under construction. These two-page letters detail the construction process, how to contact the Township, how to contact the inspectors on site, the construction schedule, as well as other information.

These letters also direct residents to visit our website at the following link for real-time updates on the local road program construction. In total, the Township published 37 chronological updates throughout the year on our website (click on the blue “Construction Updates” button when you visit the link). We published 5 updates per month and 1.25 updates per week on average over the 7.5 month construction period. These updates also went out on all of the Township’s social media accounts.

Our 2022 milling road projects (i.e. reconstruction) are nearly complete. Here is the remaining construction schedule for 2022 local road program projects, which will be completed in May to July of 2023:

1. Wellington Estates: This neighborhood includes 1.03 miles of local roads and was added to the 2022 local road program contract, using about half of the \$1.3 million the Board initially appropriated. The remaining half of ARP funding was used to fulfill the original 2022 local road program.
2. The Wardcliff Neighborhood: These road projects were postponed until spring of 2023 to allow the Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office more time to finalize their engineering plans for drain maintenance work to alleviate flooding homeowners are experiencing.
3. Carlton St, Bayshore Dr, and Buckingham Rd: We put these roads out to bid in 2022 and the bids were exceedingly high. We are removing drain-related infrastructure from the engineering plans and putting them back out to bid as part of the 2023 local road program. With the high inflation we are experiencing, we can no longer afford to pay for all of the drain-related infrastructure we were previously including in our road projects.

All of the 2021 and 2022 preventative maintenance projects were completed in 2022.



Work jointly with the Michigan Department of Transportation to minimize the impacts of the Okemos Road/Grand River Avenue Enhancement Project.

Township staff worked diligently to update residents, businesses and visitors regarding MDOT’s Grand River Ave Project. MDOT was very good at communicating with the Township. In total, the Township published 30 chronological updates throughout the year on our website (click on the blue “Construction Updates” button when you visit the link). These updates also went out on all of the Township’s social media accounts. That is four updates per month and one update per week on average over the 7.5 month construction period.

Due to the nature of this project, some of the work had to be scheduled to be completed in 2023. The following information was already shared with the community via the Township’s website and social media accounts. We will start running Facebook and Instagram ads with this information in February or March of 2023:

The 2022 work involved three different areas:

1. Asphalt resurfacing east of the Marsh Road intersection to Oak Pointe Court.
2. Raising Grand River Avenue over 2 feet and updating underground infrastructure at the Okemos Road intersection to alleviate flooding and road closures.
3. Raising Grand River Avenue over 2 feet and updating underground infrastructure near Nakoma/Playmakers to alleviate flooding and road closures.

The following work will be completed in 2023:

The portions of Grand River Avenue from Marsh Road to the CN railroad bridge that were not raised this year will be resurfaced beginning in May of 2023. Resurfacing work goes much quicker and we anticipate that this work will occur in May and June with the project being completed by July.

This resurfacing work had to be scheduled for the following year as a lot of fill materials and underground infrastructure had to be brought in to raise these two sections of Grand River Avenue in 2022. If these other portions of Grand River Avenue had been resurfaced in 2022, the asphalt would have been heavily damaged by all of the construction equipment and materials being brought in to raise these two sections of Grand River Avenue.

The Township successfully completed our water main work in conjunction with the Grand River Ave construction project at the end of March.



Determine the financial feasibility of implementing of a Railroad Quiet Zone in the northern portion of the Township.

In 2017, implementation of Railroad Quiet Zones (RRQZ) throughout Meridian Township was formally included in the Board's annual goals. This idea originated from the Meridian Transportation Commission. Work led by the Township in prior years determined that it was not financially viable to establish a RRQZ on the CSX railroad line because there is no Positive Train Control (PTC) on this railroad line. PTC is a technology capable of automatically controlling train speeds and movements, should a train operator fail to take appropriate action in the prevailing conditions. This technology is required for a RRQZ. Federal law required PTC to be installed on all Amtrak railroad lines by the end of 2021. Installation of PTC was completed last year on the CN railroad line in accordance with federal law. The CSX railroad line is not an Amtrak line, which is why PTC is not expected to be installed. This means that the CSX railroad line is not viable as a quiet zone as the cost to install PTC is far more than the Township could afford. Our estimate in 2019 was \$2.05 million to \$2.25 million for the PTC and constant warning time circuitry alone. This would cost \$3-\$4 million today.

PTC was installed on the CN railroad line in 2021 in accordance with federal policy. Based on all of our prior research, earlier this year, we contracted with OHM to implement a railroad quiet zone (RRQZ) on the CN railroad line.

Through this process, we learned from CN that the constant warning time circuitry (CWT) was not installed on the CN railroad line at the Okemos Rd, Carlton St and Green Rd crossings as part of the PTC installations. Our work up to this point led us to believe that CWT was required to be installed as part of the PTC installations. There are actually five different types of circuitry that can be installed as part of the PTC installation and only one of the four crossings had CWT installed.

This circuitry is required in order to implement the RRQZ and there is no indication that CN will be required to install CWT at these three crossing anytime in the immediate future.

We estimate that it will cost \$600,000-\$750,000 for this circuitry to be installed at the three crossings (\$200,000-\$250,000 per crossing).

The Board must now decide if, and how, it would like to fund implementation of a railroad quiet zone.



Continue to work with Ingham County officials to determine the most effective process to enhance the community's Broadband.

Now, more than ever, broadband internet is essential to those who work, reside and play in Ingham County. The County has partnered with Merit Network to create a survey that will identify those residents and businesses that do not have high-speed internet or internet that is not reliable. A member from each household in Ingham County should complete this survey, whether they pay for internet access at their property or not. The information resident's provide will only be used to explore broadband access options and will not be sold.

Resident responses are very important to the future of connectivity in Ingham County. Understanding which households are connected to the internet at broadband speeds (25/3 mbps) is the critical first step towards addressing needs throughout the community. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners have committed a portion of the County's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to this survey so these gaps in internet service can be discovered and resolved.

Township officials support the work of the Ingham County Broadband Task Force and the efforts of conducting this survey. Residents are strongly encouraged to participate, and the deadline had been extended to October 1, 2022. We are awaiting the results from the County.



B. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Continue to work with Michigan State University, and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, to foster a workplace that adheres to the highest standards of diversity, equity and inclusion.

We remain committed to our mission of promoting and supporting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforce through training, evaluation, and action. In 2022, our efforts were both internal and external. We applied DEI internally through Township trainings and operations, and including such actions as our implementation of the ADA accommodation process for the Open Meetings Act, our continued police participation in the pilot program for social workers on demand (electronically via tablet) to more effectively respond to members of the community who may benefit from mental health worker assistance, and we also welcomed an outside trainer who delivered unconscious bias training for police and fire employees.

Update the Township's 2015 Personnel Handbook with an emphasis on building equity for all.

We updated the Personnel Policy Handbook in 2021 to include the Board's DEI-related, "Non Discrimination and Fair Employment Practices Policy". A more thorough review of the entire document

will be completed in the coming year.

Continue to offer DEI training opportunities across the organization on a regular basis.

For the benefit of our residents and visitors to the Township, we have contracted with the Able Eyes organization to develop a virtual tour of Harris Nature Center. This tour is available on the Able Eyes and Meridian Township websites and provides visitors an opportunity to preview our location prior to visiting. The service is helpful for people with physical disabilities to make sure the site meets their accessibility needs, and also for those with emotional challenges, such as anxiety, to ease the feeling of visiting an area for the first time. Additional locations are planned in the near future. We enjoyed a spectacular Juneteenth celebration spanning multiple days, which included opportunities for residents to learn about and connect with each other while learning about Juneteenth history while participating in local festivities. Staff were provided an all-employee luncheon with special guest speakers at Marketplace on the Green. To align with the Board's approval to provide sanitary hygiene products in its public restrooms, the Township installed sanitary napkin and tampon dispensers in order to make these products accessible to those who happen to need them while visiting our Township parks and buildings. The DEI Task Force carries on its forward momentum and looks forward to further expansion in recognizing and celebrating our vibrant and diverse community.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Continue our efforts to bring vitality to the Village of Okemos with the assistance of the Meridian Redevelopment Fund, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Financing Authority. Continue our efforts to revitalize downtown Haslett with the Pine Village development. Assistance available shall include the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the Meridian Redevelopment Authority.

In 2022, PICA redevelopment maintained a priority for the Economic Development Director. Okemos PICA development focuses on the potential Village of Okemos redevelopment project at the intersection of Hamilton and Okemos Road. There are several hurdles when developing two urban commercial blocks outside of the typical development delays. The Village of Okemos submitted an application in May 2022 for \$5M in gap financing to support the workforce housing that this project will create. In August 2022, awards were announced and the Village of Okemos project was not included in the awarded projects.

Closing out the year, the development presented an amendment to the approved MUPUD from July 2021 to add six ground floor residential units and two parking decks for each block. In addition, the Township Board reviewed and approved the Village of Okemos 19 year Brownfield Plan. A reimbursement for eligible activities up to \$6.9M out of a total \$8.4M created of the available capture. 73% if the plan is supported by State tax capture, and an approval from the MSF Board is necessary to have all of the Brownfield dollars. The remaining approvals fall to the burial of the HVD, construction and design of the street improvements, construction and design of the storm water retention.

1673 Haslett Road is the development formally we introduced to our community as the "Pine Village" mixed used development. A four story development with three stories of independent living for 55+ residents. The first floor is commercial space reserved for members of the public, local small businesses and space for the residents of the developments. As of November 7th, Redico has approved foundations in the ground, elevator and stair cases, and full approval to commence with construction. The amended Brownfield Plan will take into consideration the addition of 3% or 5% interest back to the developer as an incentive for continuing with the project. Leasing has begun for both commercial and residential units, we anticipate the project opening in spring of 2024.

1655 & 1621 Haslett Road is under discussion with SP Holding LLC of Holland MI, began to redevelop the property in May 2021. The Planning and Economic Development Departments goals focused on creating a housing development that encourages mixed commercial establishments, updated

interurban trail and access to parking. In order to complete this redevelopment, the developer requested the use of a Commercial Rehabilitation exemption, for 10 years layered with an 11 year Brownfield Plan. The 10 year exemption on the value of the buildings is a performance based incentive. As the developer builds, the exemption on the taxes will allow them the necessary cash flow to complete the seven phase development. The Brownfield Plan at 11 years will support the \$2.4M needed to remove the contaminated soils on the property. At a project valued at \$65M, a total of about \$8.4M in tax incentives is a small cost to the advanced redevelopment outcome. Ownership is a major element



to gaining the approvals from the State Tax Commission and MEDC for the two incentives. As the developer is currently working through closure of the property, by the first quarter of 2023 action will be taken to finalize both incentives.

Work cooperatively with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to recertify our Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) status.

Meridian Township will finish year one of a two year recertification process. There are several remaining steps to achieve an active status for the recertification of RRC. A reduction of some of the redundant residential zoning, adoption of the 2023 Master Plan, 2023 Economic Development strategy, 2023 Budget (updated), CIP (soon to be updated), updated public participation policy should be approved within first quarter 2023. In October, MEDC team specialists reached out to inform our teams of the massive update to the review and approval process within MEDC. It will not be a requirement for communities to have the active status for RRC in order to be eligible for some incentives provided by the State. There will be some incentives that MEDC may require an active or high level for Mainstreet/RRC Communities. Specifically, for the Community Revitalization and Placemaking Grant (CRP), RRC will not be a requirement anymore. For other programs, such as the Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Grants, the active RRC status was a point indicator. The total number of points helped MEDC weigh which projects should be awarded their grant requests. MEDC is in talks of additional grant funding from RAP and our status current in the RRC with MEDC is active. Should we not meet the additional updates as required, we may be moved into an inactive status by January 1, 2024. As of December 2022, these are the remaining items to gain active status:

1. Access to Information- providing a guide to developers that explains policies, procedures and steps to obtain approvals.
2. Project Tracking – providing documentation of the community’s project tracking system from application to approval
3. Continued Improvement- solicit feedback and regular review of the development process
4. Boards and Commissions- create a recruitment process, provide a statement of ethics, provide an orientation for appointed members, adopt community bylaws for commissions, prepare annual reports, provide training and complete at least one joint commission meeting a year
5. Make significant updates to our zoning ordinances to meet modern development standards
6. Update the Township’s Marketing/Branding and Communication Strategy

To meet compliance by November 2023, the Community Planning, Communications, Economic Development, Public Works, and Township Board will have to administratively make these updates starting January 1, 2023. There are several other Township departments that may have to take time to review and compile information. A suggestion would be to gather the Township Board's opinion on our steps further within RRC. The goals are achievable, however; will take much discussion, especially related to housing types, mixed use by right and other zoning requirements we do not currently allow.

Work in partnership with CBL Properties to forge a plan to accommodate a Meridian Mall Commercial Planned Unit Development.

CBL is actively seeking tenants for available anchor space. Mall redevelopment is leaning toward centralized business commercial areas (ex: Lakeside, CBL other malls). Mixture of all activities to support massive commercial acres. This year CBL needs to parcel off some tenants and succeeded with separating Olive Garden and Chili's. During our tour of the Younkers space they indicated they have interest for a major tenant for that space. There is a need to restructure that parcel, as well, and the deal will be in motion. Drain improvements continue to be discussed as the Ingham County Drain Commission has made mention of the lack of storm water retention on the 60 + impervious acre site. They maintain interest in creating a space for retention for the Meridian Mall site. The location and size have yet to be determined. Our local support should be shown through additional funding for infrastructure improvements. The proposal will be for the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) to have access to a Tax increment Financing Plan to support those improvements. The deal would be a 12 year plan to gain support from the other taxing jurisdictions.

D. COMMUNITY PLANNING

With the support of the Planning Commission, Township Board and residents, formulate a process to update the Township's 2017 Master Plan supporting green infrastructure.

In late August, the Planning Commission officially issued a Notice of Intent to Plan, required under State enabling legislation, to begin the process to update In September, Staff presented the Township Board and Planning Commission with a tentative schedule to move forward and update the Plan. The Planning Commission has held an initial public hearing on the plan and begun receiving input from the public. Although we expect the update may take slightly longer than originally anticipated, due to other obligations arising since the timeline was unveiled, Staff believes that we are well on track to have an updated Master Plan in 2023.

In a cooperative manner with our Parks Commission, and the Department of Natural Resources, develop a 2022-2026 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides an opportunity to obtain input from the community, as well as, identify trends to assist in determining future capital projects. The update was conducted by in-house staff and included community surveys, opportunities for public input, staff recommendations and a public hearing. Both the Park Commission and Township Board approved the updated plan before it was submitted to the Tri-County Regional Planning Office and to the Grants Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on April 1. This plan is required by the MDNR to qualify for state and federal grant funding.

Develop a policy, criteria and procedure for expanding public art.

Directors Schmitt, Clark and Maisner reviewed art policies from other communities including East Lansing, City of Jackson and the Village of Dimondale; and also met with local artists to begin the conversation. Following our investigation, we came to several conclusions and recommendations:

1. Creation of an "Arts Commission" - Each community created an "Arts Commission" to lead and create the policy and processes utilized to promote and implement a community arts program.

2. Funding: This is a primary consideration by artists that speaks to the community's commitment to the program.
3. Spark Community Interest- A few years ago, the DDA leased individual art sculptures that were placed throughout the downtown Okemos area. This was hugely successful and eventually led to the colorful "community-painted" murals now located at Wonch Park, Hillbrook Park and at the entrance to the Large Dog Park in Central Park South, as well as the colorful murals painted on the front of Central Elementary School in Okemos. This "snowball effect" is a sound strategy to generate interest and engagement of public art in Meridian Township.
4. Grass Roots Effort- A small project such as working with local art teachers to have students paint a fire hydrants near our local schools engages local youth and also provides a "canvas" that can be changed and updated annually. Sometimes the smallest projects can have the greatest impact!

In summary, our recommendations include:

- A. Start small to generate a snowball effect of interest and engagement.
- B. Lease art sculptures for placement throughout the community
- C. Create an Arts Council to develop policy, seek grants and recommend projects to the Township Board.
- D. Authorize a General Fund allocation for public art annually.

Create a structure to broaden our affordable housing opportunities.

Meridian Township is in a position of being a very attractive community to all walks of life, but especially to families with school aged children. This is due in no small measure to the high quality of the Haslett and Okemos school districts. This high demand drives up the cost of housing, which further decreases the relative affordability of housing in the community. At some point, housing in a community becomes unaffordable to those that work there, which in turn creates a labor shortage, as people have to make a determination as to whether or not it makes sense to commute to a job where they don't live.

Affordable housing is often publicly subsidized and is generally more dense development than the surrounding area. The Woodward Way project under construction behind Whole Food is a good example of this, as there are Low Income Tax Credits involved in the project and it is multi-family attached construction, in the middle of a single-family detached neighborhood. Long term, these types of fill in projects are the Township's best bet to increasing affordable housing opportunities. Additionally, Staff is always on the lookout for potential grant opportunities to further this goal. We often do not qualify, given that we are not a low to moderate income community, but there may be future funding rounds where we can stand up an affordable housing program in the Township.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

With the support of the Environmental Commission, develop a site and implementation for the Township's fourth solar project with a goal of 100% solar energy by 2035.

Installation of a solar array on the public safety building carports was complete in November. This brings Meridian Township one step closer to its goal of obtaining 100% of the Township's operational electricity from renewable energy by 2035.

This new system consists of 101 solar panels and is a 41 kilowatt (kW) system, producing approximately 47,000 kilowatts per hour (kWh) per year of renewable solar energy, which offsets about 17% of the electrical consumption. The installation of the new system took approximately 8 days and will be operational any day now, according to Absolute Solar.

The panels have a 25-year power output warranty, but should continue to produce energy even after that time. The amount of energy produced for Meridian Township over the course of its lifetime depends on how many years past that 25-year warranty the panels continue to operate.

Estimated electric bill savings over the 25-year period is approximately \$319,000 and the system will pay for itself in about 11 years. However, that does not factor in the potential utilization of solar tax incentives under the new Inflation Reduction Act. If the Township is able to utilize the incentive, the 11-year payback period will be reduced significantly. More information will be available in 2023 once guidelines for the new bill have been released.

This is the Township’s fourth consecutive year of completing a solar project. We also updated the solar project page on our Township’s website in 2022. The public can now access information about all of our solar arrays by clicking here. Click on the blue “System Details” button, then click on “Production Details” to view the dashboard for each solar array, which show how much energy each array generates on a daily, monthly and annual basis.

Work with the Environmental Commission to create a successful Wetland Campaign and Green Projects Initiative.

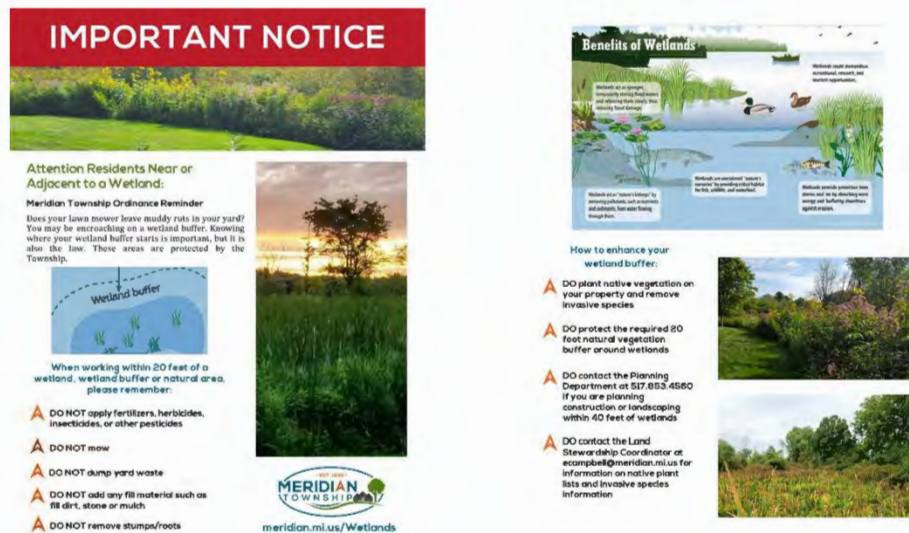
The Wetland Campaign and Build Back the Buffer Initiatives developed by the Environmental Commission were also adopted into the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022-2026 by the Park Commission.

Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator worked with a local Eagle Scout Candidate to develop and build a wetland buffer in Central Park South adjacent to the pond. This project will serve as a demonstration area with interpretive signage and serve as an educational attraction in the park.

The Parks and Recreation Department hosted a number of educational “Wetland Walks” from February through September at different wetland areas in the Township. Participants learned about wetlands, conservation and township ordinances that protect these areas as part of the Meridian Conservation Corp Program.

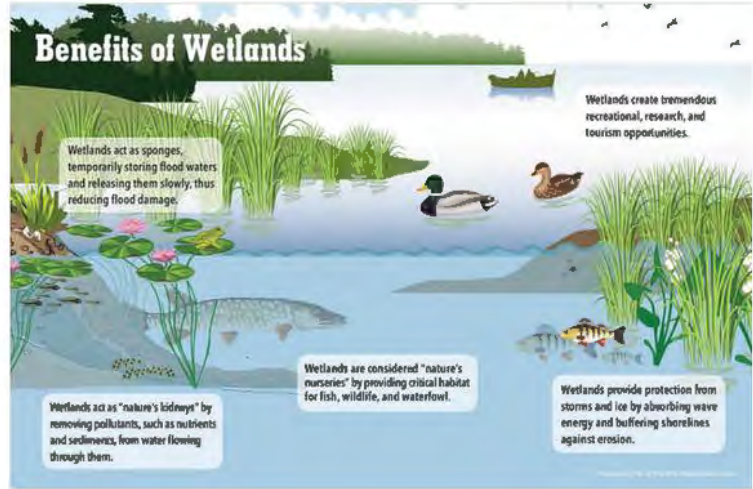
Emma Campbell created a 51-page “Native Plant Guide” which includes information on wetland protection as well as garden designs for wetland buffer plantings that is available to the community on the Township’s website.

The second wetland education mailing went out to property owners with wetlands and/or wetland buffers on October 6. The mailing went to 3,794 property owners.



Create consistent enforcement of our wetland ordinance.

Staff continues to investigate any wetland complaint we receive in a timely fashion. In 2022, we had two potential violations that were raised to staff that were investigated. In both cases, no impacts to the wetlands were observed and the property owners were educated about the wetland ordinance, land clearing ordinances, and other related issues. The Township’s wetland consultant is available as necessary and staff utilizes their services regularly.



Continue to place a significant emphasis on community recycling events and improvements to Meridian’s Recycling Center.

Due to an issue with construction costs, we are reapplying for the EGLE grant we were awarded earlier this year to construct a new recycling center behind the Service Center. We anticipate applying for the grant in April of 2023 with construction in 2024 if we are successful in obtaining the grant again. The site plan for the new recycling center is below.



Improving the Existing Recycling Center: We have continued to improve the condition of the service drive to the recycling center on Lake Dr. We recently had the service drive graded with an additional 40 yards of limestone.



2022 Recycling Events: Meridian worked in partnership with Granger, Hammond Farms, My Green Michigan, Delta Dental, Okemos Action, Okemos Earth Club, Meridian Farmers Market, Consumers Energy, recycling companies, and over 200 volunteers to conduct several recycling events in 2022. Recycling included electronics, paint, bicycles, clothing, metal, appliances and Freon reclamation, and more.

The Meridian Green Team also held two rain barrel and compost bin sales, a “Green Fair,” and educational outreach at the Marketplace on the Green, sharing information about household hazardous waste, Meridian Conservation Corp, Meridian Cares, solar energy, wetlands, lake-healthy landscaping, native plants, storm water pollution prevention, and more.

F. FACILITIES, PARKS AND GROUNDS

In cooperation with our Information Technology (IT) consultant, use our budgeted resources to bring substantial enhancements to our township’s IT infrastructure.

In 2022, the Township worked with Brightline IT to complete a renovation plan for the township technology systems. While approximately \$520,000 of the improvements will be completed in 2022, over a 250,000 worth of improvements will not be completed until early 2023. The outstanding items include \$75,000 of workstation replacements, \$79,000 for replacement of the servers related to our data continuity plan, including patch management, intrusion prevention, system backups, and significant investments in cloud services to enhance network security at the end-user and core systems. The technology department will continue to invest significant funds for the training of technology staff and end-users across the organization in 2023.

Construct Phase I and II of the MSU to Lake Lansing Regional Pathway.

Construction of Phase I began in December of 2022 and is anticipated to be completed in July to September of 2023. Construction of Phase II could begin as early as March or April and will be completed by year end 2023.

After many years of hard work to acquire the land, secure the necessary funding, and design the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, we are very excited to announce that we will be constructing Phases I and II in 2023. Once Phases I and II are completed this year, users will have an easy, safe, and enjoyable option for non-motorized travel between the MSU Campus and Lake Lansing Park South, along approximately five miles of connected pathways and trails.

Phase I is approximately one mile long and starts on the north side of the Hagadorn Road and Shaw St.

intersection and concludes at the Grand River Ave. and Park Lake Road intersection. Phase I includes a pedestrian bridge that will take motorists and bicyclists over the Red Cedar River behind the MSU Community Music School. The trail will then take users along the banks of the Red Cedar River to the north side of the CN Railroad tracks.

The estimated cost of construction for Phase I is \$3.37 million. Meridian Township successfully obtained a \$1.7 million federal TAP grant for Phase I. The remaining portion of the project will be funded by the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage and the Township Pathway Millage.

Phase II is 1.2 miles long and begins near the Grand River Ave. and Campus Hill Dr. intersection and concludes near the Okemos Road and Gaylord C Smith Ct. intersection. Pedestrians and bicyclists will use the Township’s existing pathway system to get from the Grand River Ave. and Park Lake Road intersection, where Phase I ends, to the Grand River Ave. and Campus Hill Dr. intersection, where Phase II begins.

The estimated cost of construction for Phase II is \$730,000. This phase is funded by the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage and the Township Pathway Millage.

From the northern end of Phase II on Okemos Rd, users will be able to use the existing 10-foot-wide pathway on the east side of Okemos Road to the inter-urban pathway. The Township widened this half-mile stretch of the Okemos Road pathway for the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail in 2021. Users can then take the existing 1.1-mile inter-urban trail from Okemos Road to Marsh Road.

The Township also announced that it will begin working on the design and engineering of Phase III in 2023. This is the final phase of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail and will provide a trail route from Marsh Road, just south of Haslett Road, all the way to Green Road in the northeast corner of the Township.

Once all three phases are completed, the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail will provide residents with approximately 6.75 miles of trail system, which will enhance the region’s trail system by connecting to the MSU and Lansing River Trails. We can’t wait to celebrate the opening of Phases I and II with the community.



Demolish house on Okemos Road in preparation of building support facilities for the MSU-Lake Lansing Trail.

The Township received a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to assist in acquiring this parcel at the end of 2021. Demolition of the house and land restoration was completed in April 2022.

Improve capacity and safety by expanding parking at North Meridian Road Park and Central Park South

These paving projects were planned and coordinated in cooperation with the Engineering Department. Based on higher than normal and higher than budgeted costs associated with this project, bidding will occur in December for spring 2023 completion.

To improve water quality at Central Park South pond, install two Floating Natural Purification Islands planted with live vegetation.

The five floating islands were planted utilizing native plants grown from seeds collected in parks and land preserves. These islands were planted utilizing volunteers and placed and anchored with assistance from the Park Maintenance Division staff and Fire Department. This method for filtering pond water was recommended by Park Commissioner Mark Stephens.



G. PUBLIC SAFETY

Continue our commitment to implementing bold recruiting methods to maintain a police force of 41 and firefighter/paramedic of 34.

We are making great progress in our quest to recruit a full bench of 41 police officers and 34 firefighter/paramedics. Currently, we are at 39 police officers and 34 firefighter/paramedics. This is the closest we've been to 100% occupancy in my ten years at Meridian Township. With the changes in compensation, our outstanding reputation and the newly devised recruitment program, we are hitting on all strides.



Purchase a new 2023 Pumper to replace Engine 93 built in 1999

We did receive our new ladder truck on November 1, 2022.

Review and update our accreditation through the Michigan Association of Police Chiefs.

The process is underway. The Department had an initial review and the final review will take place in December.

H. TOWNSHIP FINANCES

Continue our 2017 pledge to voters by investing an additional \$1,500,000 into MERS to help reduce our underfunded pension liability.

On track with 2022 budget to contribute \$5,217,456 to our MERS pension. This contribution is \$1,958,100 beyond our Annual Required Contribution (ARC) of \$3,259,356.

Implement a thorough process for the distribution of the \$4,500,000 American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds.

The leadership team submitted project proposals to the Township Board for the first half of the ARPA funds. The Board discussed the projects and took action to obligate \$1.3 million to local road projects, \$970,000 to overhaul the Township IT infrastructure, and about \$260,000 for power cots to be used in Township ambulances. At the November 29th Board meeting, the leadership team submitted additional project proposals for the remaining \$2 million of ARPA funds. At the December 13, 2022 Board meeting, the Board appropriated \$60,000 to digitail building and fire plan review, \$93,000 for wind screens at the Marketplace on the Green, \$135,000 to update the Police Department locker rooms, \$700,000 to local road projects, about \$518,000 to research the feasibility of a Senior & Community Center, \$350,000 towards an affordable housing initiative, and \$150,000 for Meridian Historical Village repairs. Any remaining ARPA funds not expended by June 30, 2025 will automatically rollover to fund Meridian Township local roads.

I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Promote new features and build awareness for added functionality of the newly refreshed Township website. Encourage additional use of the Township's online services.

Monsido, a new accessibility feature, was added to the website. This will allow users to adjust font size, type, and other personalized options. It also shows staff to fix non-compliant areas on the backend.



Strengthen and reinvigorate community support of the Township’s brand through a multitude of platforms: Prime Meridian Magazine, new Township signage, digital channels and additional print materials.

Prime Meridian Magazine was released in April and has gone down to being released once a year. Staff ordered samples of the new signs that will be placed throughout the buildings and will decide what style to use once those are delivered.

2022 Welcoming & Wayfinding Sign Project: We awarded the contract for the project to Johnson Sign Co. on September 28. The contract price came out to \$431,175. This will include 18 signs throughout the Municipal Complex and across Meridian Township.

We are working on securing the two final easements for the Township Welcome Signs, one on Grand River at the west entrance to the Township and one on Grand River at the east entrance to the Township. Once these two easements are secured, the last approval needed will be electrical permits for any signs that will be illuminated.

Installation is scheduled to begin the week of January 6, 2023, with an estimated completion date of March 18, 2023. The signs with planters will be completed a little later, with an estimated completion date of April 15, 2023, which will depend on weather and ground conditions.



Branding and Preventative Maintenance of the North Water Tower: The preventative maintenance of the north water tower was completed earlier this year. Our new Township brand is prominently displayed on the north water tower facing eastbound and westbound traffic on Saginaw Hwy (M-78).



Enhance the Town Hall Room audio and visual equipment to improve meeting room capabilities and better serve multimedia usage.

Installation of new monitors and equipment is set to begin mid-November 2022. Additional wiring and synchronization equipment will be installed later in December or early 2023.

Upon completion, the dais and staff table will be equipped with 22-inch monitors for board and commission members to use during public meetings. We will also be installing four televisions mounted overhead in the center of the Town Hall Room. There will also be a television installed on the wall on each side of the dais.

Foster an effective education plan regarding the Community Services Millage.

After a successful effort to educate voters, this millage passed with 73% voter approval and will be in effect through 2031. This millage supports Recreation, Meridian Senior Center, and Human Services programs.

In 2002, Meridian Township voters approved a .1 mill Community Services millage. The original ballot proposal sought to provide funding for recreation, senior center and human services. The 10-year millage expired in 2012. In 2012, the Township Board chose to seek an increase from .1 to .15 mill, with the additional .05 mill levy dedicated to supporting programming for senior citizens. Again, the voters supported the ballot proposal.

Twenty years have passed since the original millage was approved by voters. On December 31, 2021, the current levy expired and had to be reauthorized for this year, December 2022.

Manager Walsh asked our team members most affected by the millage (Parks & Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Human Services Coordinator Darla Jackson & Senior Center Director Cherie Wisdom) to meet and determine the current funding vs. future needs. The three leaders agreed to recommend a renewal.

During the February 15, 2022 meeting, the Board decided to put the Community Services millage up for renewal on the August 2, 2022 ballot.

J. RETENTION, RECRUITMENT AND WELL-BEING

Focus on implementing the 2022 Township Retention and Recruitment Program.

We have demonstrated our desire to recruit, retain, and preserve the well-being of our exceptional staff through improved wages, returning to in-person celebratory events for staff and providing regular recognition of jobs well done and providing excellent, often long-term, service to the Township. These elements are particularly important as we continue to navigate the hopeful settling down of the pandemic, whose protocols still remain in place under emergency order until January 2023. The Township put additional pay increases into place, above what was already stated in our collective bargaining agreements, made wage improvements in all four of the upcoming contracts negotiated this year, and offered a one-time lump sum payment in June to help all employees with the challenging impacts of our economy. We worked diligently to ensure fairness and equity in the implementation of these endeavors, in order to serve the numerous roles and responsibilities of our staff.

Develop creative ways to focus on and improve the team's well-being.

In an effort to achieve balance in our work experience, we have offered flexible work hours through recruitment and retention programs, keeping in mind the importance of taking time to rest and recharge.

In an effort to foster teamwork, continue to offer programs and events such as team picnics, holiday parties and Lugnuts games.

We actively promote connection and set the stage as often as possible for staff to get to know and celebrate our fellow workers by offering annual events, such as our Lugnuts sporting events, annual holiday party, providing Township gear that can be worn to work, and the Archie Virtue Award. The Award recognizes exemplary employees who continue to go above and beyond in their Township work. In addition this year, we enjoyed the Fun Friday program a trivia lunch hour program intended to step away from the office for an hour of comradery and goodwill. We look forward to continuing with these positive and inclusive programs into 2023 and beyond.

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING



The Department of Accounting and Budgeting is responsible for all aspects of the Township's accounting system. The Department maintains the general ledger, processes outgoing payments through the accounts payable system, approves purchase orders, processes utility billing transactions, prepares and monitors the budget, coordinates the pension board meeting, coordinates grant accounting, and is the coordinating department for the annual financial audit.

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

2021 Township Audit

The annual audit was completed by Yeo & Yeo CPA's & Business Consultants. The audit was given a clean review. With the 2021 audit, we implemented GASB Statement No. 98, *The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*. A single audit was not required for the 2021 fiscal year because the Township did not expend Federal grant funds in excess of \$750,000.

The Township submitted its 2020 audited financial reports to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2020 audit.

2023 Budget

The 2023 budget was presented to the Township Board on September 6, 2022 and approved at the September 20th Board meeting. The budget is showing a use of \$1.6 million in use of the General Fund, but the Township will still have a strong expected fund balance of \$12.3 million.

Federal Grants

In June of 2022, we received the second half of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The second half of the ARPA payment was \$2,269,680. The total amount of ARPA funds received was about \$4.5 million.

TEAM MEMBERS

Amanda Garber, Director
Bernie Blonde, Accountant
Christina Weber, Bookkeeper
Korissa Freier, Bookkeeper
Kimberly Graham, Account Payable Clerk

ADMINISTRATION



The Township Manager works directly with the Township Board and the various departments of Meridian Township. The Manager is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Township, budget preparation and administration, human resources, public service, public safety, public works, parks and recreation, and community relations. The Department Directors report directly to the Township Manager.

Numerous activities and projects were accomplished in 2022 under the leadership of the Township Manager's office:

- Coordinated the 2023 Goals and Objectives process.
- Continued to seek opportunities to reduce overall operating costs.
- Development and oversight of the Township's 2023 Budget.
- Developed the Communication Plan for the Grand River Avenue construction project and the replacement of the Okemos Road Bridge.
- We were fortunate to select Amanda Garber as our new Finance Director. Amanda is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
- We were able to bring Melissa Massie to a new role on our team as Director of Project Management and Operations.
- With the departure of Derek Perry, Deputy Township Manager, we were able to hire former Trustee Dan Opsomeer as the Township's Deputy Township Manager.
- Swore in two new Trustees Marna Wilson, Scott Hendrickson and a new Township Supervisor, Patricia Herring Jackson.
- Accepted \$4.4 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding.
- Attended the monthly meetings of the Okemos Downtown Development Authority and the Economic Development Corporation.
- Continued our collective efforts to foster an environment that is welcoming, diverse and inclusive.
- Facilitated the American House-Meridian groundbreaking.
- Passed the 2022 Community Services Millage.
- Installed our fourth Solar Array.
- Reconstruction and resurfacing of nine miles of local roads and eight miles of preventative maintenance.
- Received new Fire Ladder Truck.
- Installed 11th Outdoor Warning Siren.

TEAM MEMBERS

Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works & Engineering
Michelle Prinz, Executive Assistant

ASSESSING

The Assessing Department is responsible for establishing assessments of taxable property for the equitable distribution of the property tax burden in accordance with Michigan's General Property Tax Act and other applicable statutes. The Assessing Department's responsibilities include creating the annual assessment roll, maintaining ownership records and property descriptions for taxing purposes, processing Personal Property Statements and personal property exemption requests, and inspecting existing property and new construction for property tax purposes. Taxable values established by the Assessing Department annually are used by the Township Treasurer to produce property tax bills for property within the Township.

2022 TOP TEN TAXPAYERS

2022 TOP TEN TAXPAYERS (BY TAXABLE VALUE)					
RANK	TAXPAYER	PROPERTY TYPE	REAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUE	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUE	TOTAL TAXABLE VALUE
1	CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY	UTILITY	\$998,921	\$32,385,100	\$33,384,021
2	C150 2929 HANNAH LOFTS, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$22,059,405	\$321,700	\$22,381,105
3	EAST LANSING I, LLC	RETAIL	\$15,399,404	\$0	\$15,399,404
4	MERIDIAN MALL, LP	APARTMENTS	\$15,207,600	\$0	\$15,207,600
5	EAST LANSING ATHLETIC CLUB, INC.	HEALTH CLUB	\$9,998,981	\$811,200	\$10,810,181
6	TEG CENTRAL, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$10,634,281	\$0	\$10,634,281
7	BRANDYWINE CREEK II, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$9,318,878	\$0	\$9,318,878
8	TEG CLUB MERIDIAN, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$8,867,655	\$0	\$8,867,655
9	ACC OP, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$8,707,289	\$0	\$8,707,289
10	OKEMOS POINTE I, LLC	APARTMENTS	\$8,203,485	\$0	\$8,203,485

2022 VALUE SUMMARY

PROPERTY CLASS	PARCEL COUNT	SEV	TV
Commercial	671	519,160,650	433,498,692
Industrial	42	5,165,000	3,881,034
Residential	13,247	1,760,950,228	1,498,552,855
Personal	1,529	70,571,000	70,571,000
Exempt	367	0	0
TOTALS:	15,856	2,355,846,878	2,006,503,581

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Defend Tax Appeals with Vigor

At the end of 2022, there were three parcels under appeal in the Entire Tribunal Division of the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Four appeals were resolved during 2022. The taxable value in contention for pending 2022 appeals is just 0.06 of a percent of the Township's tax base. Efforts are being made to determine which of the pending cases can be resolved without a trial and which, if any, may need to be defended at trial.

Conduct Annual Assessment/Re-Inspection of Taxable Properties

The annual re-inspection program resumed for 2022. Two summer interns were hired to support the Assessing Department in meeting inspection requirements. Interns updated record cards, photos and confirmed building measurements in Hillbrook, Oak Grove and Ottawa Hills subdivisions. This is in addition to the inspections completed by full-time assessing staff.

2022 Board of Review Members

Chris Silker (alternate)	Michael Nussdorfer
Xavier Durand-Hollis	Terrance Warren (alternate)
Bertice Ellis	Sonya Pentecost
Deborah Federau	Lanny Brunette

TEAM MEMBERS

Ashley Winstead, Assessor
Jennifer Flower, Appraiser II
Angela Ryan, Appraiser II
Danielle Hughes, Assessing Clerk

CLERK'S OFFICE



RESPONSIBILITIES AND 2022 ACTIVITY

The Clerk's Office responsibilities are largely set by state statute and include but are not limited to; Election Administration, Freedom of Information Coordinator, Record Retention, Township Notices, Fiduciary Responsibilities, updates to the Code of Ordinances, and maintaining official Township Cemetery records. The Clerk's Office also provides free Notary services to the public.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEMBER LISTS

Through the collaborative efforts with Executive Administrative Assistant Michelle Prinz, the Townships Boards and Commissions list is updated and maintained for date appointed/elected to office, sworn-in, ethics statement signed, and term of service. We also collaborate with Township Supervisor Pat Jackson in processing public service applications, and Supervisor appointment recommendations.

CODE OF ORDINANCES -CODIFICATION

The Clerk's Office is responsible for the codification and publication of Township Ordinances. This includes publishing all ordinances internally and with Municipal Code. In 2022, fifteen (15) of eighteen (18) codes were sent to Municipal Code for codification. Through the collaborative efforts of the Community Planning and Development and Clerk's Office staff, a shared ordinance numbering system implemented in 2022 continued to be maintained and accurately recorded in a timely fashion. 2022 saw triple the number of codifications from the previous year.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND 2022 ELECTIONS IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

The Clerk's Office is also responsible for preparation, publication and posting of all public notices pertaining to elections, performing public accuracy testing on all tabulators, logistics for all polling locations, processing ballots, and transmitting election data to the County Clerk.

In 2022 the Clerk's office election voting records included:

- Maintained (by hand) Voter Cards (Master Cards) and Voter Identification Cards for 33,284 registered voters. The scanned voter records and Master Cards are updated on a daily basis

- 3,942 new voters for 2022
- Updated 13,282 manual voter records, based on 15,694 Inbox Data Base Changes
- Updated 2,500 voter Master Card records which were digitally scanned and stored, freeing up valuable space and allowing faster voter data retrieval
- Current reviewing, purging and updating Master Card File for all registered voters 33,284 based on QVF Data Base

Meridian Township held two elections August Primary and November General in 2022.

August 2, 2022 – 9,376 Absent Voter Ballots Issued
 8,237 Absent Voter Ballots Returned
 24 Overseas Civilian and Military Ballots Issued
 0 Accessible Ballots Issued
 44 Absent Voter Ballots Issued Day Before and on Election Day

November 8, 2022 – 13, 667 Absent Voter Ballots Issued
 13, 122 Absent Voter Ballots Returned
 114 Overseas Civilian and Military Ballots Issued
 1 Accessible Ballots Issued
 638 Absent Voter Ballots Issued Election Weekend & Election Day

- For 2022 - 2,464 residents applied to be sent an Absent Voter Application not all added to permeant voter list for 2022 Elections
- 2022 Total Absent Voters on Automatic Ballot Application List 17,426
- 221 New Voters Registered 14 Days Prior to the August Primary Election
- 481 New Voters Registered 14 Days Prior to the November General Election

Due to State-Wide Redistricting, County Reapportionment, and Local Election Commission (EC) Precinct Boundary and Polling location changes, all registered voters in Meridian Township received a new voter identification card indicating any changes. To eliminate split precincts caused by redistricting and reapportionment, the EC recommended precinct boundary line changes were approved by the Township Board.

Precinct 17 was split into two precincts to come into compliance with state law on the limit of only up to 2,999 active registered voters allowed in each precinct.

In an effort to address school safety concerns and the layout of the polling locations, staff made the recommendation to abolish polling locations within school buildings. The EC, and the Township Board fully supported and approved abolishing those locations to address school safety concerns.

PETITION SIGNATURE VALIDATION PROCESS

On Friday, July 29, 2022 at 11:30 am, 275 partial petition sheets were filed with the Meridian Township Clerk’s Office containing 1,988 signatures to put a ballot question on the November 8, 2022 election. A supplemental filing was received on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. During the preliminary inspection, the petition sheets were visually reviewed for completeness and accuracy by the Clerk’s Office. This inspection was performed while the filer was present. A receipt was signed by the official who received the filing and notarized.

Immediately after completing the preliminary inspection, our office submitted the petition to the Township Attorney’s for review and recommendation. Counsel ruled the petition invalid and subsequently the petitioner requested the petition to be withdrawn.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIA)

The Clerk's Office responded to 120 Freedom of Information requests filed with the Clerk's office during 2022 and 120 were completed. This number was almost double the number of FOIA's received in 2021.

LEGAL NOTICES AND POSTING OF OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP MEETINGS AND MINUTES

The Clerk's Office is tasked with submitting legal notices to the newspaper for publication. Notices are done to meet the Open Meetings Act requirements advising members of the community of upcoming meetings, hearings as well as changes in resolutions and ordinances. Legal notices are submitted to the local paper, posted online and the posted in Township Lobby. Township Board and other boards and commissions minutes are published on the Township website and copies are kept in the Clerk's Office and/or responsible department for the public's inspection. In 2022, the Clerk's Office submitted 141 legal notices for publication for a total cost of \$11,014.54. In addition, the Clerk's Office began publishing legal notices in the City Pulse in addition to the LSJ in an effort to increase transparency and encourage public participation at township meetings and public hearings.

NOTARY SERVICES AND OATHS OF OFFICES

During 2022, the Clerk's office performed 110 notarial services, and 102 oaths of office for public service and police and fire appointments. Most area banks and other institutions are cutting back on the types of notary services they are providing to customers which has increased the number of free notary services from our office. The oath of office must be taken whenever an official is originally elected or appointed and reelected or reappointed. This is true for both elected officials and those appointed to fill a vacancy.

Taking the oath tends to lend credibility to the position to which a person has just been appointed or assigned. It also provides an opportunity to create a "paper trail" for the township board to the date of appointment and, therefore, to the expiration date of that person's appointment so the board knows when to make future appointments.

TOWNSHIP CEMETERY RECORD KEEPING

Meridian Township oversees two cemeteries with Glendale cemetery being the most active. In 2022, there were 46 burials, 52 lot sales, 1 Disinterment. The recordkeeping management is handled by the Clerk's Office and the grounds maintenance is handled by the Department of Public Works. With the hiring of a new deputy clerk, a review of the current process of record keeping and coordination with the Department of Public Works, staff will be making recommendations for improvements including new software and an assessment of the cemetery rates.

TOWNSHIP RECORDS MANAGEMENT

With the relocation of a majority of the Township department records to the former Haslett Library site, evaluation of the Township's record keeping needs, status, priorities, retention periods, and storage options (both on paper and electronically) is an ongoing process. Emphasis has been placed on continually building efforts to permanently preserve records as well as increase the efficiency through which records may be retrieved. Clerk's staff is currently safeguarding records digitally and with backup documents on external hard drives for all of the boards, commissions and departments documents. As an example in 2022, the Clerk's Office stored 28 sets of Township Board meeting packets, minutes and agendas along with 107 resolutions, Certificates of Supervisor and Quit Claim Deeds. Staff also retained and updated 16 Ordinances passed by the Township Board which were sent to EZ Code who creates the supplements to our Code of Ordinances.

2022 ELECTION COMMISSION

Clerk Deborah Guthrie
Trustee Kathy Ann Sundland
Trustee Courtney Wisinski

TEAM MEMBERS

Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk
Robin Faust, Assistant to the Clerk/Deputy Clerk (Jan-Aug)
Zack Lemaster, Administrative Assistant II (Jan-Aug)
Zack Lemaster, Assistant to the Clerk/Deputy Clerk (Aug)
Rebekah Kelly, Records Technician II

COMMUNICATIONS



The highest priority of the Communications Department is to provide residents with an increased access to transparency in governance with relevant information in a timely fashion. The Department is responsible for coordinating a strategic and comprehensive effort to inform the public of the Township's goals, plans, activities and events through various multimedia platforms including web, digital and print. The Department ensures that all media and communications successfully reaches their intended audience. Other main functions of the Communications Department includes serving as the Local Franchise Authority for nine Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channels in Meridian Township, overseeing the operations and production for HOMTV (Government Access Channel) and CAMTV (Public Access Channel), operating a multimedia television internship training program and providing staff support to the Township's Communications Commission.

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Enhance the Town Hall Room audio and visual equipment to improve meeting room capabilities and better serve future multimedia usage.

Smart Offices and Smart Homes was the company chosen to complete the Town Hall Room Upgrade Project. A partial installation of the equipment was completed in November 2022. The Town Hall Room now has seven new television monitors, 12 new microphones, 10 individual monitors at each dais seat, a new lectern, a new audio/video mounted rack, and updated audio wiring. The final video distribution control panel is expected to arrive in the second quarter of 2023, if not sooner. Once that piece is delivered, Smart Offices will need approximately two more days of work to complete the full installation. Even though the final piece is missing, the room is fully operational and held its first Township Board meeting on December 6.

Promote and build awareness for added functionality of the newly refreshed Township website. Encourage additional use of the Township's online services. Continue to add new features to the website including reservations, payments and a Business Directory.

A new accessibility feature was added to the Meridian Township website in September 2022. Monsido is a company that specializes in providing website accessibility services to web users, as well as, the webmaster working on the back end of the website. Monsido runs a daily scan of the Meridian Township website and lists issues that are not compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 levels. Manager Diehl can then go in and resolve those issues. This leads to an increased accessibility level. When a user visits the Meridian Township website, they will see a small, purple icon in the bottom left-hand corner of every page. Selecting the icon allows the user to change font style, font size, text spacing, cursor size, contrast and more. Right now, the website is at 68% accessibility compliance, when the industry standard is 88%.

Work with the Human Resources Department to create a web portal for employee information and to house a library of staff training videos to utilize for onboarding of new employees and internal communications.

An internal web portal was not created in 2022, but Communications Staff researched different companies who utilize this feature. Granicus, the web provider for Meridian Township, offers a software called OpenCities Intranets. This software, once integrated with the current website, will offer streamlined internal communications, easy access to vital information and secure content delivery to specific employee groups.

Branding Strategy and Implementation Plan

External – Strengthen and reinvigorate community support of the Township’s brand through a multitude of platforms: Prime Meridian Magazine, new Township signage, digital channels and additional print materials. Plan a multi-year phased approach for rolling out brand campaigns throughout the community.

Prime Meridian Magazine was released in April 2022 and has gone down to being released once a year. The Communications Department has been working with Deputy Manager Opsommer and Director Massie on the new internal sign project. Multiple companies have been contacted, with mock-ups and sign samples being sent to Staff for evaluation. The project is on-going and no final decisions on the company or design have been made.

Internal – Audit internal documents, forms and brochures for Township brand standards and create a timeline to re-brand documents, as needed. Provide additional templates and staff training to create internal brand ambassadors.

Auditing of internal documents, forms and brochures was completed in summer 2022. Agenda templates, cover pages, footers, envelopes, forms, letterheads, memos, notices, press releases and resolution documents have all been updated with the correct Township Brand Standards and are available for Staff use.

Launch a marketing and communications ticket system to assist with the planning of marketing needs across departments. This is the next step of implementing the processes within the newly developed Strategic Communications and Marketing Plan.

A Google Form was created for Township Staff to fill out any time they have a request from the Communications Department, but a more robust system is being planned for 2023.

Continue working with the IT Department and a local engineer on reconfiguring the HOMTV Server Room, including removing old equipment, installing new equipment, labeling and creating new schematics for the updated workflow. Once archival equipment is properly installed in the racks of the HOMTV Server Room, begin the next phase of the digital conversion of HOMTV historic programs, footage and stories into the HOMTV Archive System.

Old equipment has been removed from three of the eight racks in the HOMTV Server Room, along with over 100 cables. The majority of engineering work in the Server Room for 2022 was dedicated to ensuring the new Town Hall Room System would be compatible with the current system.

In support of our local PEG Channels, staff will be discussing and evaluating the future of the channels, including reviewing the franchise agreement. Staff will also work with the local school districts on signal quality and equipment needs.

Staff gathered information on the seven other PEG channels under the Township’s franchise agreement. This included updating the directory with new points of contact for each channel. Manager Diehl sat in on two webinars with the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) to learn more about the franchise renewal and taking the next steps. Manager Diehl also met with the Michigan Community Media Association (MCMA) to

discuss franchising with other PEG stations in Michigan.

Community Engagement Survey

A Community Engagement and Communications Survey was launched on January 28, 2022 to further assist with the Department's communication strategy. The community was asked questions like how they receive Township information, which social platform the use most, the frequency they would like to receive information, etc. The survey generated 241 responses from January 28 to February 8.

Marketing

The Communications Department oversees the content development and engagement of 2 websites and 21 different social media accounts across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube and Nextdoor. The team continues to analyze each platform's content and community engagement.

Promotional Campaigns

There were multiple promotional campaigns throughout 2022 that the Communications Department assisted the other departments with. These campaigns included press releases, event signage, pre-event signage, social media promotions, video promos, digital paid ads and website pages. Some of the notable ones are listed below.

Harris Nature Center (HNC) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2022. Throughout the year, the Communications Team shared historical information about the HNC on social media, in digital newsletters, at HNC camps and more. A special 25th anniversary logo was made, as well as a video promo for the 25th anniversary celebration.

The Meridian Heritage Festival occurred in August 2022. The event was able to showcase both the Meridian Historical Village, as well as, the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center. The Communications Team created digital and printed signage, conducted video promos before and after the event, and utilized paid ads to boost public interest.

Road Construction Updates

The Communications Department provided constant updates for a variety of projects in the Township. The two projects with the most updates were the Okemos Road Bridge Project and the Grand River Avenue Enhancement Project. Due to the everchanging nature of the projects, updates were sent out regularly. Deputy Manager Opsommer worked closely with Communications Staff to provide the information for the updates.

HOMTV Programming

HOMTV produced and aired a total of 30 programs, 56 Township meetings and 40 social media videos in 2022. HOMTV was able to conduct election coverage entirely in-person for the first time since November 2018. All candidate interviews and results shows were held in the HOMTV studio. Interviews were conducted by the interns and Manager Diehl.

This year, HOMTV approached election night coverage differently. Due to the increase in absentee voters and results not coming in until later, Staff decided to try a two-part series. On Tuesday, November 8, a pre-result show aired at 8:00 pm on HOMTV's channel and social media platforms. Multimedia Specialist McDole and Intern Mackenize Dekker hosted the pre-show where they discussed the races and ballot proposal results that would be covered in the result recap show on Thursday, November 10.

The result recap show aired at 8:00 pm on Thursday, November 10. Multimedia Specialist McDole and Mackenize Dekker also hosted this segment. They went over the results from multiple races impacting Meridian Township and the State of Michigan.

HOMTV launched a new show titled 'Catching Up with Kenize' on Friday, December 2. This

show is hosted by Intern Mackenize Dekker and is aims to highlight different attractions in Meridian Township. The first episode was filmed at High Caliber Karting and Entertainment. The second episode aired on December 16 and showed the Christmas in the Village event at the Meridian Historical Village. Since the internship ended mid-December, the show will go on hiatus until 2023. Mackenize will be returning in the spring semester to continue hosting the show until May 2023.

HOMTV Internship Program

A total of 12 interns participated in HOMTV's internship program in 2022, compared to the 26 interns in 2021. This was the first year since before COVID-19 that the internship was conducted entirely in-person. In 2020 and 2021, a mix of hybrid and in-person internships were offered.

Awards

HOMTV was selected as the first-place winner of the NATOA Government Programming Awards for the Public/Community Meetings category. The submission awarded first place was the April 12, 2022 Township Board meeting. HOMTV competed with the City of Moreno Valley, CA, James City County, VA, the City of Los Angeles, CA, the City of Allen, TX, and the City and County of San Francisco, CA. Winners were announced at the awards on September 1, 2022. It has been a decade since HOMTV last won a first-place award with NATOA.

MEMBERS OF THE CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN 2022

Tunga Kiyak, Chair
Walter Benenson, Vice Chair
Leslie Charles, Commissioner
Lisa Whiting-Dobson, Commissioner
Brian Seipel, Commissioner
Vacant, Alternate Commissioner
Mike Nevells, Alternate Commissioner
Deborah Guthrie, Township Board Liaison

TEAM MEMBERS

Samantha Diehl, Communications Manager
Andrea Smiley, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist
Danneisha McDole, Multimedia Production & Operations Specialist

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Development continued at a rapid clip in 2022, with very similar numbers to the levels of construction in 2021. The lingering effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic manifested themselves in a series of supply chain shortages that affected a number of projects. Despite this, 2022 ended up being was one of the busier years on record for the Department of Community Planning and Development. Our Code Enforcement work in Winslow Mobile Home Park continues and although some progress has been made, a substantial amount of work remains. Our rental inspection program continues to recover from scheduling issues during the pandemic and we hope to be fully on track by summer. Our customer service focus continues in the Department through building permits and inspections, site plan review, public engagement and education, code enforcement, and rental housing inspections. The Department works closely with residents, businesses, property owners, and provides Staff support to the following Boards and Commissions:

- ✓ Township Board
- ✓ Planning Commission
- ✓ Zoning Board of Appeals
- ✓ Transportation Commission
- ✓ Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- ✓ Building Board of Appeals

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Completing a series of ‘quality of life’ ordinance amendments to help residents with frequent issues.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of 15 ordinance amendments in 2022. A number of these were ‘quality of life’ amendments to help the average homeowner, including two major changes in the Lake Lansing overlay standards, a small deck ordinance amendment, and modifications to the ZBA standards of review, which most commonly impact residential homeowners. Staff believes this work is a good first step towards making our ordinance more user friendly and we will continue down this path where we see opportunities.

Consolidate the number of Single-Family Residential and Multiple-Family Residential zoning districts.

The Planning Commission recommended and the Township Board approved the elimination of two single-family zoning districts, bringing our total down to six, plus the Village of Nemoka district. The two eliminations were the easiest changes, as they only resulted in the necessary

rezoning of seven total properties. Further changes will require substantial work, and Staff will continue to evaluate opportunities, especially on the non-residential side.

Review the Existing Land Use Map and patterns in the Township in preparation for the Master Plan update.

The Planning Commission and Staff met multiple times throughout the year to review existing land uses throughout the Township and identify potential conflicts that should be addressed during the Master Plan for Land Use update. This information will be incorporated into the update to the Master Plan.

Determine the best approach for implementation of Form Based Code principles in the West Grand River Avenue corridor.

Staff has not been able to formulate a solid approach for moving a form-based code forward and believe that it may make more sense to modify our existing standards to achieve many of the same goals. Reducing setbacks/establishing build to lines, modifying parking standards, and allowing mixed use by right in certain zoning districts are all a part of a form-based code that could easily be incorporated into the existing structure of our Zoning Ordinance. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to encourage redevelopment in the West Grand River Avenue corridor.

Kick off the 2022 update to the Township's Master Plan for Land Use.

A notice of intent to plan was issued by the Planning Commission at their August 8th meeting. Initial public meetings have been held and we are on track up to fully update the plan in 2023.

Continue to work with both the City of Mason and the City of East Lansing on process improvements relating to all Building permits.

Throughout the year, we've improved our processes with both of our partners. Mason inspections are now entirely digital and we have real time access to their databases in the field, allowing us to work more efficiently. With East Lansing, we have worked to streamline our inspection scheduling, which will improve further in 2023 with the advent of digital permitting. We will continue to work on these items as part of our daily work, to improve our delivery of service.

Investigate the potential of going completely paperless for all permitting.

After investigation, Staff requested funding, which was included in the 2023 Township budget, to move our Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical permits to electronic systems. This will lay the groundwork for all remaining Building permits to go paperless in 2023. This will be a monumental improvement to our workflow and our customer service.

Update the standards of review for the Zoning Board of Appeals to be more in line with the State enabling legislation.

After review by the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, the Township Board approved an ordinance to streamline the ZBA standards of review. This was completed in May of 2022 and the ZBA reports that their deliberations have been much more effective under the revised standards.

Complete Meridian Township's recertification in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program.

In conjunction with Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director Clark, Staff has made progress on our recertification in the RRC program, which is formally due in 2023. Staff meet with RRC Staff and have a roadmap forward for recertification, which we are preparing to discuss with the Planning Commission and Township Board early in 2023.

Update all applications, forms, and fees that the Department utilizes.

Staff completed a comprehensive review of our fee structure, which was incorporated into the 2023 budget. Our applications were updated for Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical. We will be working on the remaining applications and other forms this Winter, as our other work slows down.

Modernize Vehicular Parking Standards for new developments in the Township.

Staff has begun work on this item, but we are not in a position to present a draft to the Planning Commission for review. This goal will roll over to 2023, where we will be able to complete it.

2022 COMMISSION AND BOARD MEMBERS

(* indicates former member)

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mark Blumer, Chair
Peter Trezise, Vice-Chair
Jerry Richards, Secretary
*David Premoe
*Holly Cordill

Alisande Shrewsbury
Bill McConnell
Christina Snyder
*Scott Hendrickson

The Planning Commission continued to be busy in 2022. Public Hearings were held and recommendations made on one rezoning request, eleven unique Special Use Permit requests, and one Planned Unit Development request. The biggest new project that was reviewed and recommended for approval was the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development at Haslett Village Square, redeveloping the remainder of the mostly vacant shopping center. This will be the largest development in Haslett in decades. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval on fifteen text amendments, one of which was a complete overhaul of the sign ordinance, the culmination of over a year's worth of work by Staff and the Commission.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Alexia Mansour, Chair
Monique Field-Foster, Vice-Chair
Phil Deschaine, Township Board Representative
Scott Hendrickson, Planning Commission Representative

James Koenig
*David Premoe
*Scott Hendrickson

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a total of 18 different requests in 2022. Part of the way through the year, several ordinance amendments were adopted that aided the ZBA, including the modification of their standards of review to be more usable. The requests in 2022 covered exiting commercial buildings, signage, existing and proposed residential structures, and the proposed MSU to Lake Lansing pathway. One variance request was denied for an after the fact variance for work that was done without a permit.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

*Steven Vagnozzi
Bob Lovell, Vice-Chair
Kathy Sundland, Township Board Representative
*Joyce Van Coevering

Karla Hudson
Tim Potter
Joshua Robertson

The Transportation Commission took a strong interest in non-motorized transportation options in 2022. They worked with Staff to get MDOT to include pedestrian safety islands in multiple locations during the Grand River Avenue reconstruction. They also aided Staff in applying for the Bicycle Friendly Community program, which resulted in Meridian Township receiving an honorable mention and excellent feedback on how to proceed on our journey

towards becoming more bike friendly. The Commission continues to be an excellent resource on all things transportation related.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Jeff Theuer, Chair
James E. Jackson, Vice-Chair
Brenda Chapman
*David Premoe

Joyce Van Coevering
Frank L. Walsh
John Matuszak

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority had an extremely productive year. They reviewed two different brownfield plans for the Village of Okemos, eventually recommending approval on the revised one. They reviewed and recommended approval on the brownfield plan for the Haslett Village Square redevelopment. They reviewed and recommended approval on the first amendment to the brownfield plan for American House of Meridian (formerly known as Pine Village). Previously approved plans for the Haslett Marathon and Joe's on Jolly finished construction and reimbursement is expected to begin in 2023.

BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

*Charles Wallin
Pete Potterpin
*David Premoe

The Building Board of Appeals did not need to meet in 2022, but a meeting is already scheduled for 2023.

TEAM MEMBERS

Timothy R. Schmitt, AICP, Director of Community Planning and Development
John Heckaman, Building Official
Debbie Budzynski, Administrative Assistant II
Jaime Barrows, Administrative Assistant II
Ron Rau, Senior Building Inspector
John Hines, Senior Building Inspector
Frank Christmas, Rental Housing Inspector
Joe Wade, Rental Housing Inspector
Zachary Fenner, Senior Code Enforcement Officer
Keith Chapman, Assistant Planner
Brian Shorkey, AICP, Senior Planner

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Potential Intensity Change Area (PICA) Redevelopment

Meridian Township established the goal of ‘infill development’ to maintain and activate dilapidated commercial properties. These areas we call PICAs (Potential Intensity Change Areas) are major intersections of Okemos, Haslett, and Carriage Hills, areas. The Okemos PICA, designated at the intersections of Okemos/Hamilton and through the Downtown Development Authority is actively pursuing the development of the 206 unit, mixed use residential project. The developer, Village of Okemos LLC, submitted a request to amend their approved MUPUD (Mixed Use Planned Unit Development) from June 2021 to include two parking decks to accommodate parking and create 6 new residential units on the first floor, in August 2022. This request came when a potential tenant determined not to move forward with moving into the planned development. High-interest rates, inflation, and other mitigating financial costs have delayed the project. In November, the Township Board approved the local Brownfield plan for the project to support site contamination cleanup. The Township has met every responsibility to the developer for the project as approved. Applications to the State of Michigan Brownfield Redevelopment Authority are in progress currently. Additionally, stormwater management, public road improvement, and the burial or raising of the High Voltage Distribution line from Consumers Energy will have to be financed.

The Haslett PICA, designated at the intersections of Haslett/Marsh roads has moved the needle on redevelopment progressively. The approved redevelopment at 1673 Haslett Road has begun; this project was previously referred to as “Pine Village.” Now known as, the American House Meridian project, as the operator Redico has taken control of the development. The project includes 149 units for 55+ independent seniors with an approved mixed-use planned unit development for the site. Approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of non-residential space will occupy the first floor with three additional stories above the first floor for residents. The site will include a pathway connection to the interurban and other amenities to support independent living at a centralized locale. Demolition of the existing one-story building began on July 5, 2022. Some small supply chain delays and weather have impacted the project; however, it has not stalled since construction launched. During the construction launch, Meridian Township staff amended the approved Brownfield Plan for the site. The initial Brownfield Plan included estimated project costs and an option for the demolition of a portion of 1655 Haslett Road. This caused some confusion as the developer decided against the demolition of the other property. To clean up the approved Brownfield Plan and agreement, Director Schmitt and Clark

amended the entire plan to accurately reflect the current costs and status of the project. All the leasable commercial space of the site is under contract with a local Haslett business, and residential leasing should open in the summer of 2023. The project is expected to open in January 2024.

The Haslett Marathon at 1619 Haslett Road, successfully opened in August of 2022 with Saroki's Chicken and Pizza as a major draw to the community. The Haslett Marathon is a staple of the Haslett community, being the starter seed for what created the Haslett Beautification Association. The Haslett Marathon received support for an approved local Brownfield Plan to address any source contamination related to the gas pumps for the business. This local incentive supported the overall redevelopment of the site into the one-stop service station it is today. Full-service automotive assistance, large retail area, fast food options, and gas. This site is an attractive active location for the Haslett community. The updated parking areas allow for easy, safe, and accessible movement on the property. This is a great update to property in Haslett, one of the first in over 30 years.

Downtown Development Authority

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of Meridian Township, referred to by many as "Downtown Okemos" holds nostalgia for some in the community. Others are eager to see a thriving and bustling commercial area where people can see and be seen. As the Village of Okemos project continues through its challenges, another property has been listed for sale at the corner of Hamilton and Okemos. The site is prime and holds most of the remaining small business operations in the DDA.

The financial status of the DDA is stronger now that the Township approved to remove the debt owed from the DDA. With a general fund balance of about \$85,000 the DDA began to investigate options for reinvestment back into DDA properties. With a unanimous vote, the DDA launched their 10% match for Match on Main, a \$25,000 reimbursement program offered through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. This program allows the DDA to provide added benefit for local businesses within the Authority looking to make improvements to their property, train staff or other enhancements. MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) announced the Meridian Township DDA as a recipient of the Match on Main reimbursement in November of 2022. The DDA is proud to support Douglas J as a recipient of the Match on Main Program. As an initiator of the Downtown Development Authority, Douglas J has focused on revitalizing the district since inception. The Village of Okemos project delays required Douglas J to make changes to their current site and designate it as the 'flagship' location for Douglas J Salons. We are proud to support this reinvestment into the DDA.

Meridian Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

The EDC moved into 2022 focused on small business assistance and preservation during the Grand River Avenue and Okemos Bridge construction. A major goal to assist the small businesses in any way possible was the focus. The first step produced a shop local campaign with "Shop Local" signs along Grand River Avenue and Okemos Road. Navigating the series of detours, due to both construction projects occurring simultaneously, made it difficult for travelers to stop by the local businesses. To make the pathway to get access to the commercial complexes simple, Director Clark launched several public campaigns related to Okemos and Grand River Avenue construction.

"Mob the Roadblock" was a shop local drop-in opportunity supported by the Meridian Area Business Association. Several members of the community took a few hours after work to shop and support local businesses that were experiencing a reduction in foot traffic. Communicating the details of the construction, as well as, the "Bonus Bucks" gift card program supported several attempts to get people into businesses and shopping in stores.

In 2022, the Meridian EDC included the Meridian Motorfest", car show hosted at High Caliber Karting at Meridian Mall, as a part of our annual community celebrations. The 2021 Community Survey

commissioned by the Township saw an outcry from the public for more activities and engagement. The \$1,000 supported two trophies, a community and children’s choice selection. The best cars that fell into that category were awarded the trophy with Meridian Township EDC branded on the trophy. Jordan Munsters, owner of High Caliber Karting, was a 2022 10 over the next 10 recipient, as well as, “Best of Town” top finalist.

It was also the priority of the Meridian EDC to launch the first Freedom Fest, Meridian Township Juneteenth celebration. Juneteenth was a celebration hosted by black organizations nationwide. In 2005, Governor Granholm designated Juneteenth a holiday in Michigan. At that time many communities in the State began hosting community celebrations to honor the true end of slavery in America. In 2021, the federal government declared Juneteenth a National Independence Day- a federal holiday for us all. The Meridian EDC was overjoyed we had already planned a community scavenger hunt to bring general awareness of the holiday and its importance to the story of America. The 2022 Juneteenth festival was a good start to provide the community with access to diverse activities in the Township.

Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)

This commission, established in 2017, concentrates on what improvements can be instituted on Grand River Avenue to make it easier to traverse regardless of what mode of transportation you use. Grand River Avenue has the highest density and traffic in our community. This corridor is commercial retail and the CIA has the direction to incentivize its future as a walkable corridor. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) notified the Township of its plans for the reconstruction of M-43 Grand River Avenue in 2022. The construction project began in May of 2022 and completed most of the road work by November 2022. Repaving the Marsh Road intersection and adding three crosswalks will be included in Spring of 2023. The 18-month construction timeline was delayed due to weather and some supply issues. The scale of this project was massive and the communication of MDOT assisted Meridian Township Staff to adequately address issues during the construction. Communication with the businesses along Grand River Avenue through the duration allowed business owners an avenue to speak with MDOT on issues during construction like construction crew equipment/staff members parking, access to sites, and other issues. The installation of the crosswalks will be located within the 4900, 2900, and 1800 blocks of Grand River Avenue in the median of the 5-lane road. This portion of the construction will occur Spring and Summer of 2023.

The redevelopment of 2010 West Grand River Avenue from Burger King to Buddy’s Pizza was long-awaited by the public. With a March opening, Buddy’s Pizza provided free Pizzas for a year to the first 100 customers. A cross collaborative ribbon cutting was produced by the Greater Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and Meridian Township. The start and stop of the pandemic, changes to the site plan, and increased requirements of the Drain Office were the only incremental setbacks to this project. In November 2022, the west side Buddy’s Pizza location closed, and now Meridian Township is Buddy’s Pizza’s only location in the Lansing region. Buddy’s Pizza has shown a great affinity for public engagement and service since opening.

New Businesses

Meridian Township is a Prime community. Ranked Number 1 by Niche Magazine in 2021 by size and sheer magnitude of excellence. It is not just numbers that make Meridian a celebrated and sought after community. The care, quality, and quantity of our Parks systems. The high functioning of our local schools and the financial stability of Meridian combined, is a reason for the 10% increase in population in a decade. Reducing debt related to Township wide activities from the DDA to the debt for the new Fire Station could be reduced more over the next 5 years. The impact of reducing this debt should support more amenities for Township residents.

In 2022, Meridian Township welcomed 35 new single families to the community. Most of these are in

the Haslett Public Schools area with Copper Creek and Silverstone property completions. Meridian also welcomed 8 new businesses with a ribbon cutting or promotional event. These services we offer free of charge to any new or expanding business in the Township. Our smart attitude toward small business support and efficient development is what makes Meridian a prime community for development.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Renee Korrey	James Spanos
Peter Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer	Will Randle
Bill Cawood	Scott Weaver
Vacant, Vice-Chair	Angela Wright
Patricia Herring Jackson, Township Supervisor	Thomas Stanko, Chair

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Kim Thompson, Chair	Dave Ledebuhr
Phil Deschaine, Township Treasurer, Ex-Officio	Adam Carlson
Kathy Sundland, Township Board Liaison	Tom Conway
Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager/Secretary	
Shawn Dunham	
Brenda Chapman, Vice-Chair	

CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Chris Nugent	Kellie Johnson
Patricia Herring Jackson, Township Supervisor	Bruce Peffers, Chair
Barry Goetz	Chris Rigterink
Vacant, Vice-Chair	

TEAM MEMBERS

Amber Clark, Economic Development & Neighborhoods Director
Michelle Prinz, Executive Assistant

FIRE/EMS



Serving our Community with Pride, Integrity and Professionalism since 1929.

On behalf of the members of the Meridian Township Fire Department, it is my pleasure to present our 2022 Annual Report. This comprehensive report summarizes the responses, activities, training, and the resulting statistical data for the year. While 2022 had its challenges, it also saw significant opportunities and growth in our Department. Our highly skilled and motivated firefighters, officers, and inspectors navigated the ever-changing post-pandemic landscape, continuing to provide top-notch emergency care to our Township. Our emergency response calls continued to increase with 6081 total calls in 2022, an 8% increase compared to 2021.

In 2022, with support from the Township Board and Township Manager, we increased staffing from 32 to 34 firefighters in Fire Operations to help with the increase in service requests. We held three promotional processes (some which carried into January 2023) to fill Training Chief, Battalion Chief, and Captain positions that were vacated due to retirements. We hired four new firefighter/paramedics and two firefighter/EMTs. Hiring EMTs was a new challenge for us, but necessary given the statewide paramedic shortage. Working with Township leadership and our Union we developed a plan to hire and sponsor EMTs to paramedic training which would lead to their state paramedic licensure.

Community engagement returned to pre-COVID numbers throughout the year as we worked with the community and local schools doing public education and smoke detector programs. This was accomplished via station tours and our fire safety program in schools. We were also pleased that after three years we were able to hold our annual Open House in October during National Fire Prevention Month.

We continued to foster strong relationships with our neighboring fire departments through planning, training, and emergency response. Over the year, we trained and responded with fire departments from East Lansing, Delhi Township, Mason, NIESA, Lansing Township, Bath, and Lansing. We look forward to continued cooperation with these outstanding departments as we work to make our communities safer places to work, live, and play.

As Fire Chief, I am honored to lead Meridian Township Fire Department. I would like to thank all the members of our Fire Department for their commitment and professionalism as they serve our community daily. I would also like to thank Manager Walsh, as well as, the other Township Staff, Elected Officials, and Boards for their support over the year. We could not accomplish what we do without their support. We would be remiss not to acknowledge our community. We are blessed to have incredibly strong support from the community, and we do not take this support for granted.

OUR MISSION

Each year the Fire Department evaluates its programs and service delivery models to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency, but more importantly, to ensure it can meet the emergency service, prevention and risk-reduction needs of the Township.

- *Our mission* is to provide efficient, dependable and professional services to the residents of Meridian Township.
- *Our values* are to educate and provide caring, compassionate service with excellence and dignity.
- *Our vision* is to exceed the expectations of the community by proactively responding to the established priorities and needs.

The Meridian Township Fire Department (MTFD) is a full-service organization providing fire, rescue and emergency medical services to a community of 44,935 residents across 32 square miles. Three stations are strategically located to provide timely responses to residents and visitors alike. Three dual-paramedic staffed advanced life support ambulances deliver emergency medical care at the highest pre-hospital level. The Department also provides fire prevention, code enforcement, plan review and fire safety related programming. The Department is an active member of the Metro-Lansing Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Teams. These teams respond to high-risk, low-frequency incidents involving confined spaces, trenches, bodies of water, high/low angle rescues, chemical/gas releases and structural collapses. Each department member is committed to serving the community with excellence through the delivery of outstanding customer service.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Marshal is dedicated to the goal of reducing the number and impact of fire-related incidents within the Township of Meridian. This is accomplished through a comprehensive fire inspection program, plan review, testing of new construction and fire protection systems, and investigation of all fires that occur within the Township. The Fire Marshal is also invested and involved in the fire and life safety education programs that are provided by the department.

Fire inspections are conducted in businesses on an annual basis. Scheduling is based on the risk posed by the building's occupants or operation (for example, a restaurant or theater has a greater inherent risk than a physician's office). These inspections are based on adopted codes and Township ordinances. In 2022, we started the process of identifying buildings/occupancies and inspection schedules to develop a plan for completing inspections based on high, medium, and low risk occupancies according to national standards and best practices. This process consists of the following steps:

1. Use the Apartment Rental Inspection List from the Building Department as our top priority for high risk inspection scheduling. This allows us to tackle several higher concentration life safety occupancies in quick order. The number of units and buildings per complex varies greatly. For scheduling purposes, we use the inspection time estimates list and adjust as needed. In an effort to reduce the amount of time needed to complete inspections, we are working on a plan to use our operations staff who have required NFPA Inspector 1 certifications.
2. Conduct a definitive Community Risk Assessment (CRA). Conducting a CRA to identify all commercial buildings and occupancies within Meridian Township establishes our master list of buildings requiring inspections. Once that list is developed, it can then be applied to the NFPA 1730 Standard on Organization and Deployment of Fire Prevention Inspection and Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigation, and Public Education Operations. Through this document, these buildings can be categorized into an improved scheduling matrix for

completing inspections, as well as estimate time and personnel requirements needed to keep the overall inspection schedule on target.

3. Initiate an Engine Company Inspection Program (ECIP). With the completion of the CRA, a significant portion of buildings and occupancies identified as low risk can be assigned to the ECIP for completion in their normally scheduled rotation (three years). With personnel investment it can be launched in conjunction with the other tasks as mentioned above.

Training

In 2022, TJ Booms was promoted to Training Chief with the retirement of Bill Priese. Chief Booms has been revamping our Training Division and working on a new training plan to move forward past the COVID pandemic. This plan will encompass current required training, as well as, new training to increase our ability to function at higher aptitudes. The Department's adjunct instructors will utilize their expertise to advance our knowledge base. As a Paramedic/Firefighter there is a tremendous amount of training required to maintain certifications, licensure, and job efficiency. The Training Chief is responsible for coordinating and providing this training.

All Meridian Township firefighters are state-certified Firefighter I, II and state-licensed paramedics. Paramedics must earn 45 continuing education credits and renew their licenses every three years. We require each paramedic to be certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). The initial certification courses are 24 hours each followed by eight hours of recertification every two years. Firefighters are held to state-mandated standards in highly technical areas, each with their associated training requirements. Some areas of training include firefighting tactics and strategy, incident command, emergency driving, hazardous materials, ice and water rescue, extrication, confined space operations and medical care for the sick and injured.

Our fire officers carry Fire Officer I, II, and III certifications based on rank. These courses allow the officer to learn fire ground and day-to-day leadership skills.

The Department worked in conjunction with other METRO Departments to complete live drills on a vacant building in 2022. This allowed firefighters to practice search and rescue, ventilations, hose advancement, and forcible entry. This training provided simulated fire conditions for crews to make entry and complete fire control, search and rescue of victims, and command and control of the fire scene.

Continuing to keep Meridian Township safe, in 2022 the Training Division trained parks and police staff in CPR & First Aid, as well as, provided continuing education.

Fire Operations

Fire Operations is composed of shift operations consisting of individual firefighting and EMS companies which perform the day-to-day public safety activities for Meridian Township. The members that comprise Operations are divided into two shifts and work a 24-hour on/24-hour off/24-hour on/72-hour off shift. A Battalion Chief fulfills the role of Shift Commander and supervises each shift. The Shift Commanders handle daily staffing issues and the scheduling of training and other activities for their shift. They also act as the liaison between the shift and Fire Administration. The Battalion Chiefs are responsible for command and control of most emergency incidents in the Township.

The Township's fire district is geographically divided into three districts each containing one fire station. The three fire stations are strategically located to support quicker response. Each station houses an ambulance, fire pumper, and one station also houses our ladder truck.

Each individual fire company is made up of a Company Officer (usually a Lieutenant) who is responsible for the supervision and safety of the company members assigned to them. The Company Officer is also responsible for all reports and communications relating to the operation of their company.

The year 2022 demonstrated once again that Meridian Township Fire did much more than respond to emergency medical calls and residential structure fires. We are an all-hazards fire department that also responds to significant motor vehicle accidents and a variety of rescues and fires that present unusual hazards for the community. While responding to emergencies is the priority of the Operations Division, personnel also spend their time completing required training classes, conducting station tours for the public, maintaining the stations' apparatus and equipment, and performing annual inspections.

Over the past two years, the Department has learned the importance of adaptability and flexibility to meet the needs of its firefighters, the Township, and residents while maneuvering through the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, our total call volume increased to 6081 calls, which was 8% higher than 2021. Of the 6081 calls, 5286 were EMS calls, an increase of 14% from 2021.

Below is a table showing total fire and EMS incidents over a ten-year period from 2013-2022 (Fig. 1). Figures 2 and 3 show the number of fire calls (Fig. 2) and medical calls (Fig. 3) in 2022 categorized by dispatch type. The final chart compares total EMS calls by month in 2021 and 2022 (Fig. 4).

10 Year Incident Count-Fig 1			
Year	Fire Incidents	EMS Incidents	Total Incidents
2013	737	3,619	4,356
2014	714	3,683	4,397
2015	623	3,884	4,507
2016	925	4,028	4,953
2017	1,181	3,988	5,169
2018	991	4,226	5,217
2019	1,217	4,220	5,437
2020	875	4,031	4,906
2021	963	4627	5,590
2022	795	5,286	6,081

Confirmed Fire Responses Dispatch Type-Fig 2	
HAMIN - Hazmat	3
FBURN - Illegal burns	36
FSTRUC - Residential Structure fire	73
FMAJOR - Commercial Building fire	4
FSTILL - Smoke Investigation	59
FALARMS - Fire Alarms	324
FBRUCH - Brush Fire	25
CAR/ Dumpster fire	124
UTILF - Utility Poll fire / wires down	72

Stuck in elevator	4
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Medical Responses Dispatch Type-Fig 3	
MED - Start EMD	1,314
MEDIC - Medical response	456
MEDICA - Alpha response	776
MEDICB - Bravo response	279
MEDICC - Charlie response	746
MEDICD - Delta response	716
MEDICE - Echo response	48
PIACCF - Injury Accident	132
CITAST - Fallen and can't get up	459
DROWN - Lake or river	5
PINNIN vehicle accident	20
UNKACCF - Unknown Injury accident	20
MUTAMB - Mutual Aid medical	490
SHOOTF - Assault gun	1
STABF - Assault knife	2

EMS Calls by Month	2021	2022
January	416	517
February	364	428
March	449	471
April	398	513
May	479	478
June	486	486
July	479	571
August	496	473
September	518	489
October	542	552
November	477	538
December	485	538

Fig. 4

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Outdoor Warning Sirens

In 2022, Meridian Township Fire Department continued the project to install emergency warning sirens throughout the Township to alert residents to severe weather and other emergencies. The eleventh siren was installed at Bennett Woods Elementary. The goal is to finish installation of the five remaining sirens by 2026.

Fire Department Safety Equipment

Since 2018, the Department has worked hard to be fiscally responsible by managing the budget while evaluating its operation. A portion of aging equipment has been replaced, prompting implementation of an annual five-year replacement schedule to support fiscal sensibility now and in future budget years. The five-year plan is updated annually and includes replacement schedules supporting NFPA 1971 and MIOSHA Part 74 Personal Protective Equipment such as structural firefighting clothing, saws, hose, SCBA, tools and more, as well as NFPA 1901, which includes vehicle replacement schedules for emergency response vehicles.

Vehicles

In 2022, the Department took possession of the long-awaited ladder truck, a new ambulance and command vehicle. With the supply chain issues across the country, it now takes up to three years to build new ladder trucks, pumpers, and engines. Because of these delays, in 2022 we ordered a new ambulance for a late 2024 delivery.

Department Policies

In 2022, a goal was set to update all Standard Operating Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures that are outdated. The following eight operational policies and one COVID-19 policy was updated in 2022.

- Personal Appearance
- UTV Use
- Post Fire Gross Decontamination
- SCBA Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Medical Treatment and Reporting
- Conference and Workshop Request
- Medical Treatment and Reporting
- Hose Testing

In 2022, a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was developed and will be presented for Township Board approval in January 2023. This plan outlines each Township department's roles and responsibilities during emergencies. Meridian Township's COOP plan consists of the Basic Plan, a comprehensive 30-page document that covers the entire Township, along with the COOP Functional Annex and Support Plan for each department.

Additionally, a Damage Assessment Plan was developed and approved by the Township Board. The Damage Assessment Plan formalizes the process for performing damage assessment during large-scale disasters. This is key to documenting critical infrastructure losses that may result in federal dollar reimbursement.

Grants

In 2022, the Department received a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$132,327 that will pay for sponsoring new and part-time employees to paramedic training leading to state licensure.

Recruiting

Over the past two years, the Department has evaluated and instituted ways to recruit and retain professional firefighters. There is a substantial shortage of paramedics in Michigan which has created staffing issues for many private ambulance services and fire-based ambulance services throughout the state and across the country. This has prompted the department to consider creative ways to recruit and fill vacant positions. In 2022, we hired two EMT/firefighters and have sponsored them to a paramedic course concurrent with their first 18 months of employment. This was a change from our traditional hiring process in which only paramedic/firefighters were eligible to fill open positions;

however, it was necessary given the paramedic shortage and is proving to be a good solution to a growing problem.

MTFD TEAM

FIRE CHIEF

Michael Hamel

ADMINISTRATION

Christine Cassidy, Admin Asst. II

Tavis Millerov, Fire Marshal

TJ Booms, Training/EMS Chief

BATTALION CHIEFS

Mark Vroman

Ken Phinney

CAPTAINS

Chris Johnson

Ryan Campbell

Rudy Gonzales

LIEUTENANTS

John McDermott

Jason Hillard

Jason Everest

Bob Caretti

Jeff Rommeck

Sam Weber

Al Diaz

FIREFIGHTERS

Brian Pennell

Corey Pant

Eddie Dennis

Amanda Arnett

Erik Sellen

Chuck Malesko

Corey Pant

Nate Lafayette

Benjamin Haviland

Tony Kozlowski

Gavin Ulman

Don Carr

RJ Lewis

Tyler McNalley

Dustin Farhat

Angela Kohls

Jared Gentner

Steven Garelik

Joseph Harrison

Michael Weber

Timothy Brighton

Nicholas Irving

Steven Schott

Andrew Zaleski

Retirements

Bill Priese

Bill Richardson

Mark Vroman

Resignations

Dan Ackles

Promotions

TJ Booms (Training Chief)

Chris Johnson (Captain)

Bob Caretti (Lieutenant)

Sam Weber (Lieutenant)

Ryan Campbell (Battalion Chief)

MERIDIAN Cares *Making a Difference*

Meridian Cares, the Township’s Human Services program, aims to strengthen the community safety net for Township residents facing financial hardship. The emergency needs fund provides temporary assistance to these households, and aims to prevent them from facing further crises such as eviction or utility shut-offs. These households are provided with additional resources and referrals as needed.

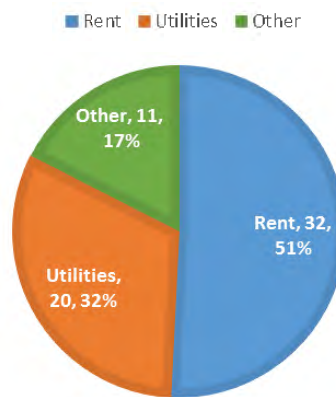
Total expenditures in 2022 totalled \$38,665. This includes funds used for the School Backpacks Program, bulk Redi-Ride pass purchases, and spending from the Emergency Needs Fund.

63 households in total were assisted in 2022. 51% of these were for rent payments, 32% for utility bills, and 17% other. “Other” includes assistance with transportation, or other essential needs.

The human services program received \$27,332 in donations, excluding Knob Hill apartment fire relief donations.

282 discounted Redi-Ride passes were provided to the community. The Township receives a 40% discount on these passes from Capital Area Transportation Authority.

ASSISTANCE TYPE



Back-to-School Backpacks

With the help of Meridian Cares, Kiwanis of Haslett-Okemos, and other generous donors, we were able to pack 500 backpacks with high quality school supplies. 200 backpacks were delivered to Haslett Public Schools, and the remaining 300 went to Okemos elementary and middle schools. The total cost for this project was \$6,885.85, with \$5,750 being covered by donations.

Holiday Baskets

In partnership with local churches and Haslett-Okemos Rotary club, 228 food baskets were delivered to low income households in the Township for Thanksgiving and December Holidays. 21 baskets were delivered to qualifying families for Easter 2022.

Knob Hill Fire

In addition to the 63 households assisted by Meridian Cares in 2022, 38 checks were given to the families displaced by the Knob Hill apartment fire. Total donations received for Knob Hill fire relief were \$120,717.76, and of this, \$115,638.06 has been spent so far.

HUMAN RESOURCES



The Human Resources Department is responsible for multiple employment related matters including labor relations and contract negotiations, staffing, diversity and inclusion initiatives, payroll, personnel record keeping, benefits administration, pension administration, risk management, legal compliance, personnel policy manual administration and skill-based training programs.

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Contract Negotiations

Successful contract negotiations were completed for our four unions whose contracts were set to expire on December 31, 2022. Administrative Professionals, Non-Supervisory Professionals, and Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation contracts settled 5-year contracts effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027. The Supervisory Professionals negotiated a 3-year contract from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. Wage adjustments include 3% increases each year for the duration of the contract with a 5% increase at the top of their wage scales. Juneteenth has been added to as a paid Township holiday and the contract language was reviewed in order to reflect language and wording that aligns with its mission to support its DEI initiatives.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our DEI Taskforce began meeting monthly in order to solidify framework that the Township will use annually to set training, put on internal and external DEI events, and otherwise honor and celebrate our diversity. At the end of every year, the Task Force will be able to evaluate its effectiveness and impact, and plan for the coming year.

Employee Traffic

In 2022, the Township welcomed 33 new hires among all of our departments, including police officers, firefighters, seasonal workers and more. In addition, we had a tremendous response for temporary election workers. More than 150 people signed up to work for the Township throughout the election cycle. We appreciate all of our Team and glad for those who joined us in 2022.

Recruitment and Retention

In addition to a 1% increase for staff and a 1.5% increase for police, fire, and public works employees, the Board approved the Township's proposed Recruitment and Retention plan for police officers and firefighters in the second quarter of 2022. A wage scale realignment, resulting in higher pay, was approved and implemented for Police and Fire in May and June, respectively. A one-time lump sum retention payment was approved for all permanent Township staff. The payments were received by staff in June.

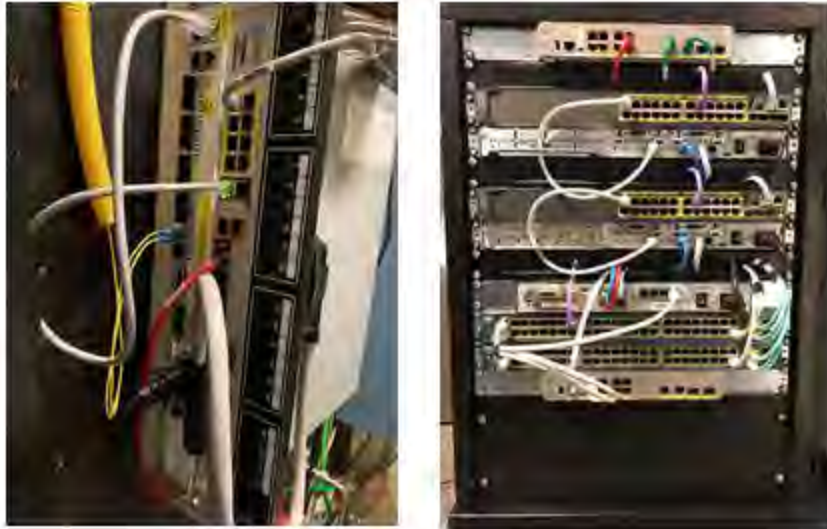
COVID-19

Policy and protocol remains in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. In alignment with the emergency orders that have been extended nationwide, the Township continues its dedicated effort to work with staff who are symptomatic or test positive for the virus. We've had more than 200 opportunities to help employees work through the process and ensure we are doing everything we can to protect each other and our community.

TEAM MEMBERS

Abigail Tithof, Human Resources Director
Carol Hasse, Human Resources Administrator
Michelle Prinz, Executive Assistant

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



In 2022, most Information Technology activities revolved around projects designed by and implemented in conjunction with our third party consultant, Brightline IT. This included new switches at most of our facilities, Integration of new Internet and intra-facility connections, new security infrastructure at our main sites, and implementation of new local infrastructure & cloud services that significantly enhance our business continuity posture across the entire organization.

METHODOLOGY FOR OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVES

1. Highest priority is given to core infrastructure stability and keeping existing services and resources operating at optimum performance and availability.
2. Resolution of emergent end-user issues related to technology is an important function that all Department personnel spend a significant time addressing.
3. Training initiatives are utilized in cases where staff resources are recognized to be deficient in the use of available technology or additional expertise would increase employee productivity.
4. Remaining resources are committed to replacing technology that is still functioning, but aging, and at end of useful life.

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

The Department's primary goal continues to be to support Township Board established Goals to the greatest extent possible. While successful in this endeavor, many other new important initiatives were prominent throughout 2022. These included, but were not limited to the following:

Technology Evaluation and Planning

The technology team continued work with our third party consultant, Brightline IT to finalize plans for and begin execution of major hardware and software upgrades across the entire organization. The final report was completed in early March, and after careful review, the executive summary was delivered to the Township Board in May. Subsequently, the Board designated \$970,248 of American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars to fund most of the projects recommended in the report.

Network Switching Infrastructure

With the last comprehensive upgrade to the Township's infrastructure in 2005, the technology team worked with Brightline IT to install switches at the Township Hall Building, the Public Safety Building, the Service Center, and all three fire stations. The new switches have made a marked improvement in performance across all facilities.

Digital Border Security Enhancements

The technology team continued work with Brightline IT to install new firewall devices at our Township Hall facility. Companion devices were on back order for five of our other facilities, but are expected to be installed in the first quarter of 2023.

Expansion of Network Connection Services throughout our Facilities

The technology team worked with a variety of providers to improve site to site connections throughout our facilities, to improve pricing, and to enhance available services both internally, and also with third party municipal partners with whom we share services, such as East Lansing & Ingham County. These connections will play a large part in 2023 projects to deploy a smart network that is able to use all available connections to minimize downtime between our different connectivity points.

Security Training Initiatives for all Employees

Staff pushed security-training programs to all end users. This provided insight to digital security, and the essential role we all play in keeping our network and data secure. Following one of the recommendations in the training, IT then pushed two-factor authentication to all Office 365 users across the organization.

Expanded Hardware Pool used to Support Resident's Privacy & Mental Health & Training

The IT Department worked with the Police Department to purchase & configure additional Teams enabled tablets to allow wider use than in 2021. These devices allow trained psychologists to confer directly with at-risk patients at the point an officer recognizes the need for additional support. IT staff deployed an additional five iPads for enhanced training initiatives focused on training new recruits to the policies associated with our Police Department accreditation.

Converted from a Shared Law Enforcement Information Network to Hosted Service

The IT Department worked with the Police Department to reconfigure our connection to the Law Enforcement Information Network & National Crime Information Center networks. Previously we shared a service with the City of East Lansing, but came to a point that autonomy was essential to provide a stable service. The Police Department now connects directly via the software vendor.

Moved Zoll Fire Records Management Server from East Lansing to Meridian Township

IT worked with the Fire Department to move the Fire Department Records Management System to Meridian Township infrastructure. Previously Meridian and the City of East Lansing collaborated on the shared system, but when the City moved onto a different Records Management System (RMS), it only made sense to move the data to a Meridian Township resource.

Expansion of Cellular Services

Some vehicles were using legacy 3-G cellular data devices to push information back to our Cartograph Work Order Management System. IT staff worked with the garage to replace these devices. All devices are now running on the 4-G (LTE) data network.

Continued Expansion of Cloud-Based Assets.

IT staff worked with end user Departments to increase utilization of OneDrive, SharePoint, Teams, and other applications to support virtual operations. These activities will continue over all of 2023.

Expanded Use of Helpdesk

This system responds to requests for technical support 24 hour a day, 366 days a year. Staff continues to work with the third party provider to increase to the greatest possible extent our ability for simple issues to be handled and/or at least triaged prior to being referred to Meridian Township Staff. While there is

still room for improvement, this service is in turn helping to increase IT productivity during regular work hours while simultaneously reducing after-hours activities of departmental employees.

Established Relationships with Third Party Network Engineering Services

IT staff worked with Brightline, Avalon, CDW-G, & Logicalis consulting services to expand knowledge of Network Technicians as they perform activities related to desktop, server, and network projects undertaken throughout 2022.

Routine Items

The Department serviced over 420 requests for service throughout the year, and managed a network with over 1,000 nodes, including security and backup services.

TEAM MEMBERS

Stephen Gebes, Director of Information Technology
Kristen Cole, Network Technician
Kamic Jok, Network Technician

PARKS AND RECREATION



2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Parks and Pathway Maintenance

The Park Maintenance Division manages the upkeep of much of our community's public spaces and does so to a very high standard. Areas under their purview include our 1,000-acre park system, 78-miles of pedestrian-bicycle pathway, 20-miles of park trails, 22 park restrooms, 8 pavilions, 2 dog parks, field preparation for all youth and adult sports programs, special event set up and clean-up and multiple special projects.

Regular activities include mowing, tree trimming and cleaning up downed trees from storms, emptying park trash, snowplowing parking lots and pathways, chipping Christmas trees, mulching garden beds, maintaining sports fields, trail maintenance, playground maintenance, dog park maintenance, pavilion cleaning, cleaning and maintaining park restrooms, watering DDA and Meridian Garden Club flower beds in the summer, repairing pathways, maintaining irrigation at various locations, raising and lowering flags when necessary, and assisting the Sewer, Water and Buildings Departments where needed.

Special Projects in 2022 included:

- Built and installed a Sled Library at North Meridian Road Park to provide free sleds for public use
- Built and installed new Snowshoe Racks for rentals at Harris Nature Center
- Upgraded the pole barn at the new Okemos Road property; cleaned up the landscape in preparation for future use
- Constructed five dumpster corrals in parks to improve aesthetics
- Installed four foul poles at Towner Road Park
- Completed brick paver replacements around the Gazebo at the Historical Village
- Painted and moved a POD to Marketplace as a permanent location for the food assistance program and information booth.
- Installed new collapsible bollards at various trail/pathway entrances
- Installed an AED at Towner Road Park
- Upgraded the restroom building at the Marketplace with insulated ceilings and heat to make the facility usable year-round.
- Assisted with the assembly and launch of the 5 floating islands in Central Park South
- Installed new signs at Lake Lansing Marsh and Spengler Marsh
- Built and installed a new ice skate lending closet for the Marketplace rink
- Along with DPW, removed 135 dead deer from pathways and roads

- Installed artificial ice rink at Marketplace; maintained it weekly, dis-assembled and stored for the summer

Harris Nature Center (HNC) Facility/Programming Report

The Harris Nature Center continued as a shining gem in our park system providing opportunities for environmental education, outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing and an accessible trail for a peaceful walk in the woods. The year 2022 was a banner year for the Nature Center as it celebrated its 25th Anniversary on July 22nd, opened its new picnic pavilion new restroom building and doubled its drop-in visitor volume from 2021 with 5,229.

- Conducted nine virtual programs to school groups from all over the United States as part of the MSU annual Science Festival engaging 213 students
- Created a “Social Story” for the website so people can know what to expect when they visit
- Worked with Able Eyes to create a virtual tour of the inside and outside of the nature center that is available online to the public
- Opened the new accessible Observation Deck donated by the HNC Foundation
- Hosted 2 Native Plant Sales (spring and fall) and sold over \$8,000 in native plants
- Opened the Mole Hill play feature in the Nature Exploration Area

Harris Nature Center Foundation

- Paved the trail to the new Observation Deck
- Hosted 3 Music in Nature events bringing entertainment in the woods to 171 visitors!
- Continued with brick sales for the Pavilion Patio
- Purchased a washer and dryer for the nature center
- Worked with a local photographer to create a 2023 nature calendar to sell to the public as a fundraiser
- Hosted Turtle Toast event featuring live music and light refreshments. 38 people attended and the Foundation plans to make this an annual event
- Funded 11 school bus scholarships for a total of \$1200

Quick Facts: • Hosted eight weeks of Annie’s Big Nature Lesson with 333 students • 3,229 in-person program participants • 3,442 total program participants • 485 summer camp participants • 213 virtual program participants • 11 pavilion rentals

Farmers’ Market Report

The Farmers’ Market has grown dramatically since moving to Marketplace on the Green both in the vendor participation and customer visits. The Market operated every Saturday May – October, every other Saturday November – April and on Wednesdays from June through August for a total of 64 Market Days. In total, there were 88 returning vendors and 63 new vendors and 94,000 customers served. The Market also hosted many special events in conjunction with the Green Team, solar demonstrations, recycling events, food composting and added a food gleaning program where vendors donate their leftover produce for donations to local food banks. Also, a total of \$42,364 in food assistance transactions occurred throughout the year.

Senior Center

Providing a place for older adults to engage socially and keep their minds and bodies active, is an important element to being a prime community. The Meridian Senior Center located in Chippewa Middle School served a membership of 287 older adults with nearly 1,500 programs, events, and fitness activities throughout 2022. The Senior Center added 37 new members this year.

Deer Management – 12th Year

The Parks and Recreation Department placed and managed 70 hunters on 1,600 acres of parks and land preserves (42 properties) during the 2022 Deer Management Archery Program, as well as, on 22 private properties. The total deer harvested by the archers was 156 and volunteer resident hunters dedicated a total of 3,518 hours of service. The program operated from September 1- December 31 with 1,900 total pounds of venison donated.

Recreation Programs

The Recreation Division was running on all cylinders in 2022 with multiple programs and events!
Okemos

- K-6th Spring Season/485; Fall Season/469; Total = 954
- K-7th Grade Flag Football Program: 106
- 1st –8th Grade Baseball Programs: 99
- 1st-8th Grade Softball Program: 99

Haslett

- K-6th Grade Spring Soccer/271; Fall Season/206; Total = 477
- K-6th Grade Basketball Program: 284
- K-7th Flag Football Program: 132
- 1st-5th Softball Program: 41
- 1st-8th Grade Baseball Program: 94
- T-Ball Program: 90

Williamston

- 1st-4th Grade Baseball Program: 24
- T-Ball Program: 73
- 1st-4th Grade Softball: 13

Other Programs

- Sporties for Shorties: 390 (ages 3-5)
- Adult Kickball Leagues: 9 teams
- Adult Softball Leagues: 7 teams
- 4 on 4 Sand Volleyball Leagues: 20 teams
- 150 registered Seniors participated in exercise class at the Central Park pavilion all year long Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- Our pickleball courts at Hillbrook and Towner Road Parks host drop-in play at scheduled times daily. Their popularity has skyrocketed since opening in 2017.
- Fitness Over 50 Exercise Group had a total of 95 participants in 2022 and counting new memberships in January, 2023. The group is growing! Georganne only reported 59 participants at the end of 2021. That is 36 new participants since January, 2022. They are loving all of our advertising on the local community event calendars and social media

Special Events

- Here comes Santa Paws 51 pups and their families
- Halloween at the Market Event – 200 kids + families
- Family Moonlight Sledding- 300
- Teen Moonlight Sledding- 100
- Mom to Mom Garage Sale - 47 vendors
- 2 - Skating parties - 75 Participants
- Music at the Market average 200-300+ audience members/week (23 weeks of live music)
- Kids Crafts at the Wednesday Market 25+/-participants each Wednesday
- “Rec on the Move Program” at 4 neighborhood parks 100+/- participants and families at each of the 4 events
- 2 Yappy Hours (dog park parties)- 50
- Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt - 407 kids +families
- Running Club - 37 Participants
- The Large and Small Dog Parks continue to be popular with our residents and their pups! Year-end membership for the large dog park totaled 760 and small dog park 601.

Celebrate Meridian

The largest special event of the year was Celebrate Meridian Festival that occurred on Saturday, June 25. The event took place at Marketplace on the Green and in Central Park with live music, beer and wine tent, food trucks, children’s games and inflatable obstacle courses and fireworks finale. Even with Central Park

Drive remaining open, it all came together. The community-wide celebration was the result of a team effort from nearly every township department, the generosity of local businesses and volunteers.

Meridian Heritage Festival

The Festival took place on October 1 in the Meridian Historical Village. This event is coordinated with Friends of Historic Meridian and Nokomis Learning Center. The event offered historical reenactments, demonstrations, food, music and fun. The 2022 event was the most successful Heritage Festivals in several years!

The Park Ranger Program

The program continues to be an asset in assisting park users during evening hours and weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This program has been very successful in providing positive interaction and assistance to park visitors. The program was first implemented in 2001.

Park Pavilion Reservations

The Meridian Township Park System offers eight parks with pavilions for public use. One of our most popular shelters located in Wonch Park, was off-line in 2022 due to the Okemos Road Bridge Replacement Project. The year ended with a total of 247 reservations at pavilions at seven different parks.

PARK COMMISSION

The Meridian Township Park Commissioners are elected to 4-year terms and have the responsibility of setting policy and direction for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks.

PARK COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mary Nardo Farris, Chair
Ami Van Antwerp, Vice Chair
Mark McDonald
Mark Stephens
Amanda Lick

LAND PRESERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Volunteer and Meridian Conservation Corps (MCC) Accomplishments

The Meridian Conservation Corps consists of 238 total members (53 new members in 2022) who volunteered 1,121.5 hours across 18 parks and preserves. While removing invasive species is a top stewardship priority, planning native species in their place is just as important. Quick Facts: ● 59 native species collected ● 174 native trees installed at two township preserves ● and estimated 534,128 seeds collected from 20 Township properties. The Invasive Species Strike Team works hard throughout the season to bring stewardship to as many parks and preserves as possible, removing invasive species to open up habitat for native plants, wildlife, and insects. Quick Facts: ● 48 stewardship work days performing litter cleanup, invasive species removal, native planting, native seed sowing, wetland buffer restoration, and floating island installation ● 900 native wildflower transplants were implemented at seven parks and preserves.

Love a Park Day and Meridian Service Day

For Love a Park Day, 35 volunteers worked across four Township parks for a total of 68 hours to clean up park sign gardens and plant flowers. Meridian Service Day included 27 volunteers from the Kiwanis Club who worked on two parks for a total of 50 hours.

Community Connection with Michigan State University

Continued work with sustainability and land management courses to do trail stewardship including invasive species management and native plant restoration.

Wetland Education and Restoration Program

The goal of this program is to expand the community’s knowledge of ecosystem services wetlands provide, Township ordinances and state regulations for wetland protection, as well as, local restoration efforts and conservation. Two wetland buffer restorations were completed at Central Park South. Seven Wetland Walks were conducted to educate the public on wetland protection and local ordinances.

Planting a Native Meridian; A Practical Guide to Bringing Native Plants into your Yard

A complete resource for the community on native plant education, released in September of 2022.

Floating Island Installation at Central Park South Pond

Floating islands were planted with ten native wetland flower species and sedges. This water quality initiative approved and organized by the Park Commission and MCC volunteers installed the plants and prepped the islands for launch in June.

Prescribed Burn Management

A successful spring burn took place at Lake Lansing North Preserve in April of 2022.

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Jamie Hiller, Chair
Steve Thomas, Vice-Chair
Yu Man Lee
Kendra Grasseschi

Kris Parnell
Courtney Wisinski, Township Board Liaison
Mark Stephens, Park Commissioner Liaison

TEAM MEMBERS

Administration

LuAnn Maisner
Bridget Cannon
Kati Adams
Michael Devlin
Nick Wing
Emma Campbell
Kati Adams
Tom Cary

Director of Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II
Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent
Parks and Recreation Specialist
Parks and Recreation Specialist
Land Stewardship Coordinator
Parks, Pathways and Land Preservation Superintendent
Farmers’ Market Manager

Harris Nature Center

Allison Goodman
Kathryn Page
Elizabeth Litwin
Audra Francis
Bryce Usiak
Jesse Munson

Park Naturalist
Assistant Park Naturalist
Assistant Park Naturalist
Assistant Park Naturalist
Assistant Park Naturalist
Assistant Park Naturalist

Parks, Land Preservation and Pathways

Larry Bobb
Traverse Fuller
Josh Cannon
Dan Inman
Tom Baker
Troy Goodwin
Grant Rhodes
Angela Pontius
Makenna Ott

Parks, Land Preservation & Pathways Maintenance Lead
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Recreation Intern & Seasonal Maintenance Worker
Recreation Intern
Park Ranger

Derm Clarkin
Andrew Yeomans-Stephenson
Ethan Stone

Seasonal Maintenance Worker
Seasonal Maintenance Worker
Seasonal Maintenance Worker

Meridian Senior Center

Cherie Wisdom
Courtney Caltrider

Center Coordinator
Administrative Assistant

POLICE



The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation and equality; we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.

CORE VALUES

COMPASSION

We care for and empathize with our fellow human beings.

COURAGE

We face danger to ensure the safety of others. We will stand up for what is right. We will be brave when others may not. We strive to eliminate fear through our actions.

EXCELLENCE

We employ those who strive to achieve a higher standard. We listen to our employees and the members of our community to continually improve our effectiveness and reliability. We strive to exceed community and professional expectations.

FAIRNESS

We will treat all individuals impartially. We will act in a just manner. We appreciate different points of view. We exercise discretion appropriately.

INTEGRITY

We will fulfill our mission in its entirety using sound principles, honesty and sincerity.

RESOURCEFULNESS

We can be relied upon for help and support. We have the ability to deal with situations effectively. We build on our mutual experiences to effectively resolve problems.

RESPECT

We value the rights and beliefs of others. We are courteous. We treat others as we expect to be treated. We appreciate diversity.

WORK ETHIC

We are self-motivated and self-directed. We do what is asked and strive to achieve

expectations. We hold ourselves to a higher standard.

In 2022, there were 18,540 calls for service (excluding traffic stops 3,340).

2022 Written Reports	
Alarms	482
Traffic Crashes	818
All Other	4,226
Total	5,526

Yearly Comparisons

Written Reports

2019	2020	2021	2022
6,421	4,963	5,008	5,526

Calls for Service

2019	2020	2021	2022
18,552	16,228	17,211	18,540

Arrests

2019	2020	2021	2022
563	402	554	503

Citations

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Citations Issued	2,096	1,517	1,711	1,231
Total # of Charges	2,857	1,888	2,279	1,590

Traffic Safety

The Meridian Township Police Department views traffic safety as a primary focus of keeping the community safe. The Department works in conjunction with the Ingham County Road Department and the State Highway Department to address concerns related to road design. The Department takes enforcement action in areas designated as directed patrols based on review of traffic crash data, citizen complaints, and traffic problems that are created as a result of road closures. Speed monitoring instruments including a speed trailer and speed signs are used to complete traffic studies regarding speed-related safety concerns and traffic counts. The equipment is used to educate the motorists and can be deployed easily in areas identified internally or through citizen reporting. This year we completed 16 directed patrols and 9 traffic surveys.

Two of our officers provide car seat inspections for the Department. During 2022, seven (7) car seats inspections took place throughout the year, including during the Department's Halloween Open House.

Traffic Crash Investigation Team

Traffic crashes involving fatal or potentially fatal injuries require investigators with specialized training and equipment. Area law enforcement agencies have committed personnel to the Ingham Regional Crash Investigation Team (IRCIT). On-duty team members are called to assist participating agencies

with potentially fatal crash investigations. While providing a more rapid response of team members to the scene of an accident, the sharing of resources has also provided investigators with increased experience and has reduced the financial burden on member agencies. In 2022, the Department requested the regional crash investigation team four (4) times, while providing assistance on eight (8) investigations outside of the Township.

Meridian Township Deer Involved Collision Data			
Year	Injury Involved	No Injury Involved	Total
2019	3	150	153
2020	5	157	162
2021	4	125	129
2022	2	99	101

Volunteers

Volunteers were instrumental this year during several events hosted by the Department. In June, during our Annual Awards Ceremony, a Haslett High School vocalist performed the Star-Spangled Banner. In October, one of regular volunteers greeted visitors, checked them in, and worked them into groups for tours of the Department during the Halloween Open House. Twice in December, volunteers came to assist the Department, once to help wrap presents for our Shop with a Cop event and then again to help with a party organized for the children displaced by the Knob Hill fire.

The Department is continuously looking to find additional volunteers to assist with our parking program.

Community Police Officers

Community Policing is the cornerstone of all our actions and interactions. From the first day of employment until the day they retire, officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods to participate in community activities, communicate directly with citizens, and form relationships, so that our community trusts and understands our Department.

Annually on the first Tuesday of August the Department engages the community through a nationwide event know as National Night Out (NNO). The event is intended to strengthen relationships between the community and law enforcement to take a stand against crime. During 2022, more than 25 NNO events were attended by members of the Department. Officers had the opportunity to speak with residents and share information, play games with children, and enjoy some casual conversations.

National Faith & Blue Weekend is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Law Enforcement entities and faith-based groups are key pillars of a local community, and when they work together, communities thrive. The Department was able to engage in several small activities over the course of the weekend.

Adult Crossing Guards

The Department hires, trains, and manages the six adult school crossing guards for the six schools in the township. The guards are supervised by the School Resource Officers.

Canine Team

In 2022, the Department maintained one K9 Team, Ofc. Anderson and K9 Ares, that is trained in article searches, area searches, building searches, narcotics detection and tracking. Surrounding Departments request or provide mutual aid from K9 Teams when they either do not have one on- duty or do not have one at their Department. Ofc. Anderson and K9 Ares completed 388.75 hours of monthly maintenance training, as well as, certifying nationally through the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH) at the yearly seminar.



2022 Canine Team Activity Numbers	
Calls Handled By Meridian's Canine Team	20
Calls Handled By Other Departments	9
Call Outs To Other Departments	15
Total Calls For Service	44
Activity Type	
Ingham Regional SRT	0
Article Search	8
Area Search	0
Building Search	1
Narcotics Search	10
School Sweeps (OHS/HHS/ELHS)	4
Tracking	23
Demonstrations	2
Other Use	0
Total	48

*A canine call may include more than one activity type.

Special Response Team

The Ingham Regional Special Response Team (IRSRT) is comprised of personnel from the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, East Lansing Police Department, MSU Police Department, and Meridian Township Police Department. The team is called upon by agencies when a tactical team is needed to respond. Meridian Township commits three officers and one sergeant to the team. Meridian Township Officers received 528 hours of regular monthly training and 224 hours of annual training. This totals 752 hours of yearly training. IRSRT had twenty-two activations in 2022.

School and Community Resource Unit

The School and Community Resource Unit is comprised of two officers who work with the Haslett and Okemos Public Schools. The officers provide a number of services to the schools in an effort to provide a safe environment for children to learn. The officers also assist with a number of community events.

The officers participated in "No Senior with Christmas" event. This is a Tri-County TRIAD program which led to 450 holiday baskets distributed to tri-county elderly residents. Meridian Township residents received 26 of the baskets.

Meridian Township Police Department held the annual "Shop with a Cop" event in December of 2022. The officers worked with school counselors and twelve (12) area students participated. The officers worked in conjunction with Walmart, Jets Pizza in Haslett, and the Haslett Okemos Rotary Foundation.

Investigations Unit

The Investigations Unit is overseen by the Services Division Commander. Sergeant Ed Besonen handles the day-to-day operations of the unit and ensures each investigation is handled efficiently and with great care. In 2022, one sergeant and three officers were assigned to the unit.

Criminal complaints are handled at the road patrol level but sometimes require additional attention from a specialized investigator. These complaints are assigned to our Investigations Unit if it is determined the crime is complex or will require a more time consuming and thorough investigation. Investigators work closely with victims, officers, other law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the Township Attorney to ensure a thorough and fair investigation is complete.

Crimes commonly assigned to the Investigations Unit include but are not limited to homicides, sexual assaults, robberies, child abuse, home invasions, frauds, larcenies, and death investigations. The investigations unit assigned a total of 171 complaints in 2022.

Complaints Assigned Per Year	
2019	504
2020	351
2021	279
2022	171

Court Services

Our Court Services Officer (CSO) acts as a liaison between the police department, the Ingham County Prosecutors Office, the Township Attorney, and the court system. The CSO tracks and processes criminal complaints and submits them to the appropriate attorney's office for review of warrant request and juvenile petitions. The CSO is also responsible for the registration and address verification of sex offenders in Meridian Township.

Court Services	2019	2020	2021	2022
Subpoenas Served	692	729	328	461
Personal Protection Orders	41	43	40	40
Warrant Requests	614	581	787	809
Warrants Signed by CSO	378	362	251	339
Twp. Attorney Requests	144	113	93	122
Total Petition Requests	102	39	50	107
Retail Fraud Requests	234	190	145	145
OWI Requests	62	61	69	55
Assault Requests	42	47	127	73
Assault Requests-Domestic	180	151	138	142
Larceny/Fraud Requests	82	70	48	63
Narcotics Requests	20	10	16	19

Records Unit

The Records Unit supervisor oversees the day-to-day activities of the Records Unit. The Records Unit consists of a supervisor, two full-time technicians, and a part-time technician. They provide support to the Uniform Division as well as the Investigations Unit by preparing criminal reports for prosecution and reporting crime statistics to state agencies. They also maintain databases for statistical reports which are provided to department staff, the Township Manager, the Township Board, and is made available to the public.

Records personnel also process all police reports, crash reports, traffic citations, and other related documents. Customer service is an emphasis of our Records Unit. Records personnel assist the public by responding to FOIA requests, processing insurance requests for reports, processing pistol purchase licenses, and answering incoming phone calls.

Annual Crime Reporting Summary	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2021-2022
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	1	1	0	1	100%
Rape and Attempted Rape	70	51	62	36	-42%
Robbery	12	12	10	17	70%
Aggravated Assault	37	39	35	35	0%
Total Part 1 Violent Crime	120	103	107	89	-17%
Burglary	96	88	64	69	8%
Larceny	935	749	611	467	-23%
Vehicle Theft	52	44	56	75	34%
Arson	4	0	6	0	-600%
Total Part 1 Property Crime	1,106	881	737	611	-17%
Total Part 1 Offenses	1,220	984	844	700	-17%
OWI Arrests (Liquor or Drugs)	63	53	69	48	-30%
Traffic Accident – Roadway	847	588	785	818	4%

Accreditation

Accreditation is an on-going program that encourages law enforcement agencies to improve performance and service to the community. It is the voluntary adoption of the best practices in law enforcement and requires constant evaluation of the professional objectives set forth by an independent body of professionals in the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC). Accreditation status acknowledges the implementation of conceptually sound written directives, policies, procedures, and training.

In February 2020, the Department became the first police agency in mid-Michigan to gain full accreditation status from the MLEAC and the 19th overall in the state of Michigan. Today, there are 53 accredited agencies in the state and another 65 agencies are in the process.

In December of 2022, the MLEAC sent a pair of assessors to the Department for our triennial assessment. Through the hard work of our accreditation team, we were notified that we had passed our assessment and would achieve accredited status for an additional three years.

Mid-Michigan Police Academy

The Services Division Commander represents the Department and acts as a coordinator for the Mid-Michigan Police Academy which is hosted by the Lansing Community College (LCC). Coordinators work closely with recruits during the 17-week academy, giving our coordinator an opportunity to identify possible candidates for employment. This also allows the coordinator to monitor each recruit's progress and assist in career development. Because of our involvement in the police academy, the Department can have an active role in shaping the future of law enforcement in the state of Michigan. Three Department officers also teach various classes at the academy. The Department earns LCC credit hours for the time spent coordinating and teaching at the police academy. These credit hours can be used to send officers to training at LCC.

In 2022, the Department sponsored six recruits through the police academy, one during the spring session and five during the fall session. We also recruited and hired an additional recruit attending the spring session. The recruits from the spring session have completed their training and are solo-performing patrol officers. The recruits from the fall academy are in field training.

Training

Under the direction of the Chief of Police, the Training Sergeant oversees all training for the Department. The Department provided employees with 3,125 hours of training in 2022. It included some of the following:

- In-Service: 1,176 hours (this includes cultural competency, de-escalation training, mental health/PRT training)
- External: 1,468.50 hours
- Firearms: 347 hours

The in-service training program consists of monthly training for all sworn employees, periodic roll call videos, policy tests, quarterly firearms sessions, and computer based instruction. The external training program utilizes universities and private experts to handle specialized training outside the scope of the Department trainers. The Department strives to remain at the forefront of progressive policing by acknowledging the importance of both continuing education to retain current skills and the acquisition of new knowledge for officers to expand their skill base.

Citizens' Academy

The Department hosted a ten-week Citizens' Academy that meets once a week for three hours in the fall. This academy exposes the attendees to police operations and procedures. The department had 8 people participate this year. We received great feedback and look forward to holding it again next year.

Youth Citizens' Academy

The Department hosts a seven-week Youth Academy that meets once a week for two hours in the spring. The students learn about police work while being able to experience hands-on activities. The Department did not host a Youth Academy in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Property Room Report

The Quartermaster maintains the property room. Activity involving the property room in 2022 included:

- 1,738 items entered as evidence
- 120.5 pounds of narcotics incinerated from the Prescription Drug Drop Off Box
- 344 abandoned vehicles were processed

Citizen Satisfaction Survey

A total of 1,200 citizen satisfaction surveys were mailed to victims and complainants involved in traffic accidents and other calls for service in Meridian and Williamstown Township. Surveys are used as a tool to monitor customer satisfaction with the Department's services. In 2022, a total of 157 surveys were returned. The 15% response rate was decreased as compared to 2021.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey for Sworn Personnel

Category	Rating of Excellent/Good
Helpfulness	94%
Friendliness	96%
Knowledge	96%
Quality of Service	95%
Professional Conduct	96%
Response Time	94%

Rating of Emergency and Non-Emergency Dispatch Service (Ingham 911 Dispatch)

Category	Rating of Excellent/Good
Helpfulness	65%
Friendliness	67%
Knowledge	66%
Quality of Service	66%
Professional Conduct	67%

**Not all questions generated a response.*

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

In conjunction with the Township Manager, the Department establishes goals to help in the delivery of law enforcement services. Many of our goal accomplishments and other activities are listed as follows.

Fill all vacant positions while simultaneously working toward creating a diverse and inclusive workforce.

- Officer Danny Mora, Officer Jacob Gonzles, Officer Natalie Tyndall, Officer Brent Spence and Officer Sarah Hubbard graduated from the Mid-Michigan Police Academy in December and are currently in Field Training.
- Officer Isabela Acker and Officer Jack Akers graduated from the Mid-Michigan Police Academy in May. Both have completed their field training and are solo performing officers assigned to the uniform division.

Leverage suggestions made by the Recruitment and Retention Committee to provide an environment more likely to retain employees while attracting potential employees.

- External vest carriers have been acquired thanks to a gift from a private donor. Feedback from officers has been extremely positive.
- Currently reviewing ideas to update the public safety building to improve its appearance and function.
- Change was made to appearance standards to allow female officers to wear their hair in a ponytail or other manner that still meets a professional appearance.

Work to improve transparency of the Department's actions through use of the website, social media, and community meetings.

- Creation of Social Media Committee.
- Significantly increased the number of posts to share actions of department and engage community.
- Continued review and updates to websites transparency page.
- Continue quarterly Neighborhood Leaders Meetings to share and receive information from our partners in the community.
- Participate in the monthly meeting of Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT) to maintain a dialog between our regional community and the police department.

Prepare for the 2022 MLEAC re-accreditation assessment.

- The Department had an on-site inspection for re-accreditation in December of 2022. Every three years accredited agencies are inspected by assessors to ensure compliance with the over 100 standards set by the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC). Our agency will be Re-Accredited in February of 2023 after a Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission review of our assessment.

Prepare staff for succession due to retirements or promotions through training and mentoring.

- Continue to provide training to supervisors through Michigan State University School of Staff and Command and First Line Supervisor courses.
- Provide officers and Sergeants with other task specific leadership training to better prepare them for promotions.

Assist the Parks Department with the deer management efforts to reduce property damage and traffic crashes.

- Two Sergeants and six officers participated in removing 200 deer from herds that affect high accident locations.
- Accidents involving deer reduced from 129 in 2021 to 101 in 2022.

Provide leadership in the law enforcement community through involvement in collaborative professional law enforcement training.

- Partnered with area law enforcement agencies to develop a critical skills training. Meridian Township Police Department provides instructors to countywide training for officers in decision-making process.
- Involvement in Michigan State University School of Staff and Command and First Line Supervisor schools as class facilitators and receiving free training for our officers in these classes.
- Involvement in countywide use of force instructor development course, to provide additional training to our use of force instructors.
- Early discussion regarding a large-scale AVI training in October involving law enforcement, fire, EMS, schools, tow companies, and many others. The intent of the training will be to bring the full scope of an AVI situation to light from many perspectives, identifying any area that needs to be improved.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE SERVICES

The Meridian Township Police Department provides law enforcement services to Williamstown Township. The 2022-2024 contract arranges for Williamstown Township to compensate Meridian Township \$141,802.00 for calendar year 2022 and \$67.65 per hour outside of the 40 hours of weekly patrol for emergency and non-emergency responses.

Williamstown Township Statistics				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Written Reports	323	285	280	251
Calls for Service	1,451	1,304	1,506	1,279
Calls for Service (excluding traffic stops)	1,038	1,043	1,143	1,063
Arrests	17	8	12	15
Citations Issued	170	115	95	46
Total Number of Charges	204	132	111	56

Written Reports				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alarms	52	31	29	23
Traffic Crashes	107	102	105	101
All Other	164	152	146	127

Total	323	285	280	251
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MTPD TEAM MEMBERS

CHIEF

Ken Plaga

CAPTAIN

Richard Grillo

LIEUTENANT

Bart Crane

SERGEANTS

Edward Besonen
 Curt Squires
 Andrew McCready
 Andrew Tobias

Chris Lofton
 Jason Clements
 Brian Canen

OFFICERS BY SENIORITY

Christina Scaccia
 Jeff Adams
 Kyle Royston
 Rebecca Payne
 Bryan LeRoy
 Doug Strouse
 Aaron McConaughy
 Dan King
 Adam Slavick
 Ian Mandernack
 Kolby Casaday
 Megan Klein
 Austin Dietz

Blaine Anderson
 Lorenzo Velasquez
 Antonio Trevino
 David Reinke
 David Reinke
 Megan Heinemann
 Meghan Cole
 Maggie Cole
 Bryant Martin
 Isabela Acker
 Jack Akers
 Stacey Bazan
 Danny Mora
 Jacob Gonzales
 Natalie Tyndall
 Brent Spence
 Sarah Hubbard

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Kristi Schaeding, Administrative Assistant
 Heidi LaFargue, Records Supervisor
 Lori Hagan, Records Technician

Alycia Boik, Records Technician
 Jennifer Ramsey, Records Technician

CADETS

Baylie Kaiser
 Mariah Keener
 Elizabeth Noechel
 Cassidy Forbes
 Kelly Hintze
 Demia Finley
 Kayla Frank

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances: Chapter 2, Article 1

A Department of Public Works shall be created and the department shall be headed by the Director of Public Works and Engineering. The department shall be responsible for all matters relating to the management, maintenance, and operation of all the physical properties of the Township. This department shall have exclusive control of the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Township sewers and water mains, the operation of Township dumps and landfills, the operation and maintenance of the cemetery, and the maintenance of all Township facilities.

2022 DEPARTMENT GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

Township's Work on the Daniels Drain Assessment Roll in Accordance with the Michigan Drain Code

After 19 public meetings were held since 2015, the Township finalized the Daniels Drain Drainage Project Special Assessment Roll on May 3, 2022 with the Board's adoption. We conducted about 80 one-on-one meetings with residents, responded to hundreds of phone calls and emails, mailed notices for both drafts of the assessment roll in accordance with Public Act 188.

Township staff also mailed a letter voluntarily to all property owners in the Daniels Drain district prior to the final assessment roll going before the Township Board. This voluntary letter detailed how each property owners' assessment changed in terms of dollar value and percentage increase or decrease over the course of the assessment roll process. The letter also provided the average assessment for commercial properties, single-family homes, and multi-family units. Lastly, it details the entire history and special process from 2015-2022 and why the assessment roll changed.

We received and completed a FOIA request for all eight years of documents and communications regarding the Daniels Drain. We received one appeal of the Daniels Drain Drainage Project Special Assessment Roll, litigation is ongoing.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Daniels Drain Construction

Worked diligently to update the community regarding the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Daniels Drain construction project. In total, the Township published 21 updates throughout the year on our website and social media accounts. All of these updates also went out on the Township's social media accounts. We could not find any updates on the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's website. The Township's updates were also shared with the relevant neighborhood associations throughout the course of the year. Deputy Manager Opsommer also provided our Police and Fire Departments with daily updates on where the construction pinch points would be for emergency response purposes.

Some remaining restoration work will be completed by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's contractor in the spring of 2023. Township staff made sure several construction items were corrected over the course of the project, including sanitary manholes, ditch restoration work along Dobie Rd, and the pathway railing along Grand River Ave.

The Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office contacted the Township in late July and informed us that repaving of the northern 400 feet of Northview Dr was not included in the drain project. This 400' section begins at the southern curb cut to the Ponds Cooperative and ends at Grand River Ave.

The Township does not want to leave this 400' section of asphalt in poor condition. We worked with the Drain Office and their contractor to get pricing that matches our 2022 local road program contracts and permitted them to mill and repave the north section of Northview Dr as part of the drain project, which will be funded by the Township's local road millage.

Upon taking core samples, some soil work will be required before this section of Northview Dr can be milled and paved. Therefore, this portion of Northview Dr will be completed in the spring of 2023. Asphalt plants open around May 15, so the work should begin in mid-May to early June.

Township Examining Pros and Cons of Converting Chapter 20 Drains

The Township held two meetings with the Ingham County Drain Commission's Office regarding converting our Chapter 20 drains to Chapter 3, 4 or 8 drains. Township staff are currently having internal discussions about the pros and cons of converting our Chapter 20 drains.

It is clear that the Board would lose any and all authority to petition, or not petition, drain improvements for Chapter 20 drains if we convert them. Meaning the Township would no longer be able to prevent drain improvements it deems as unnecessary. If the Board converts the Chapter 20 drains, this authority would be solely held by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office.

We are working to determine what controls we would have over the Chapter 20 drains moving forward, outside of choosing to petition or not petition the improvements, if we were to keep them as Chapter 20 drains.

Township Staff Coordinated Powell Road Paving Repairs at No Cost to Taxpayers

The southern portion of Powell Rd was paved by Mayberry Homes as a condition of approval for the construction of Silverstone Estates. This small section of Powell Rd failed due to insufficient peat/muck removal by the contractor. Peat was removed at a depth of about 17 feet below grade here. After many meetings, Township staff were able to get the developer's contractor to pay for the repairs. The repairs began on October 24 and were completed on October 28.

Water Main Break at Haslett and Park Lake

One of the worst water main breaks the Township has ever experienced occurred on June 23 at 10:03 a.m. The water main break was caused by the Ingham County Road Department's contractor.

This is a 24-inch water main that is a main distributor of water to our customers from the ELMWSA plant.

When reports first began coming in, we immediately activated our crews and our emergency contractor. We were able to restore water to all customers in 23 minutes by closing the valves to the north and south of the main break in concert with the East Lansing Meridian Water & Sewer Authority (ELMWSA).

We then worked with ELMWSA to determine which zones of the Township were impacted and produced a map to communicate this information and issue the boil water advisory by 12:26 p.m.

We then answered hundreds of phone calls and emails to address any and all concerns that residents had regarding the water main break. The boil water advisory was lifted on June 25 at 5:30 p.m. after

both rounds of testing came back negative for microbial contamination.

Emergency repairs were completed on the water main by Friday at 7 a.m. (less than 24 hours). We poured concrete at the 45 degree turn in our water main to act as a new thrust block and prevent another contractor from removing the thrust block in the future. Our system functions perfectly fine with this section of water main isolated and out of service. Therefore, we gave the concrete the full weekend to cure before putting this section of water main back into service on June 27.

Increasing Everbridge Emergency Alert Subscribers

We have been working diligently to increase the number of residents who subscribe to the Township's emergency alert system, Everbridge, by adding this information to our water bills, putting it in the red banner at the top of the Township's website on a regular basis, disseminating information on social media, in email newsletters and other platforms. We had 7,300 subscribers in June 2022. We now have 8,403 subscribers as of December 2022, a 15% increase in just 6 months.

Knob Hill Fire Relief Efforts

Thanks to the generous support of so many, we were able to purchase or supply toiletry and hygiene items, gifts for children, clothing, some kitchen supplies, duffel bags, suitcases, and air mattresses for every family. Through all of the monetary donations, we were able to raise a total of \$120,107.76 through Meridian Cares.

After purchasing some of the above-mentioned items, we were left with a fund balance of \$115,638.04. This amount was then distributed evenly across all 31 occupied units, allowing us to make a donation in the amount of \$3,730.26 to all 31 families. Each family also received about \$130 in gift cards, for a total value of \$3,860.26 per family.

Enhance the Town Hall Room Audio and Visual Equipment to Improve Meeting Room Capabilities and Better Serve Multimedia Usage

The installation of new monitors, TVs and audio/video equipment in the Town Hall room is nearly complete. Additional wiring and synchronization equipment will be installed later in early 2023.

Upon completion, the dais and staff table will be equipped with 22-inch monitors for board and commission members to use during public meetings. We will also be installing four televisions mounted overhead in the center of the Town Hall Room. There will also be a television installed on the wall on each side of the dais.

Meridian Township to Pay Off Central Fire Station in 2025, Over 3 Years Early

In 2012, Meridian Township voters approved a 15-year .2 mill levy to finance the construction of the new Central Fire Station. In 2013, the final bond payment was slated for 2028. Due to higher than expected revenue, Township officials have announced plans to pay off the debt three years early in 2025. This accelerated payoff will save taxpayers over \$822,000 in principal and interest costs.

We are pleased to be in a position to pay off our debt early and save our taxpayers an additional three years of bond payments. Over the past few years, we have increased the number of paramedics on staff, purchased new ambulances and fire trucks and built a new fire station. The Township Board is fully committed to providing our firefighter/paramedics the necessary equipment to provide exemplary customer care.

We received very good media coverage on this effort in the LSJ.

The Central Fire Station was constructed in 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Bill McConnell, Chair
Kendra Grasseeschi, Vice-Chair
William McConnell
J. James Kielbaso
Courtney Wisinski, Township Board Liaison

John Sarver
Luca Wisinski, Student
James E. Jackson
Tom Frazier
Anna Colby

TEAM MEMBERS

Administration

Dan Opsommer

Deputy Township Manager
Director of Public Works & Engineering
Administrative Assistant II

Denise Green

Engineering

Younes Ishraidi, P.E., C.F.M.
Nyal Nunn, C.F.M.
Jay Graham
Michael Love
Tom Westerfield

Chief Engineer
Senior Project Engineer
Records Manager
Engineering Technician
Engineering Technician

Geographic Information Systems

Cara Maney

GIS Specialist

Environmental Programs

LeRoy Harvey

Environmental Programs Coordinator (PT)

Public Works Superintendent

Rob MacKenzie

Water Utility

Robert Stacy
Mike Ellis
David Lester
Dan Palacios
D'Destin Kaufmann
Derrick Bobb
Ben McCann
James Arnett

Lead Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker

Sewer Utility

Jacob Flannery
Kyle Fogg
Don Cuson
David Borowicz

Lead Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker
Utility Worker

Buildings, Grounds and Cemetery

Tyler Kennell
Keith Hewitt

Lead Utility Worker
Utility Worker

Motor Pool

Todd Frank

Lead Mechanic

TREASURER'S OFFICE

For most of 2022, the Meridian Township Treasurer's Office resumed normal operations as we came out of the of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, in 2022, the Treasurer's Office provided our 44,000 residents with access to many services without having to set foot in our buildings.

In 2022, The Treasurer's Office:

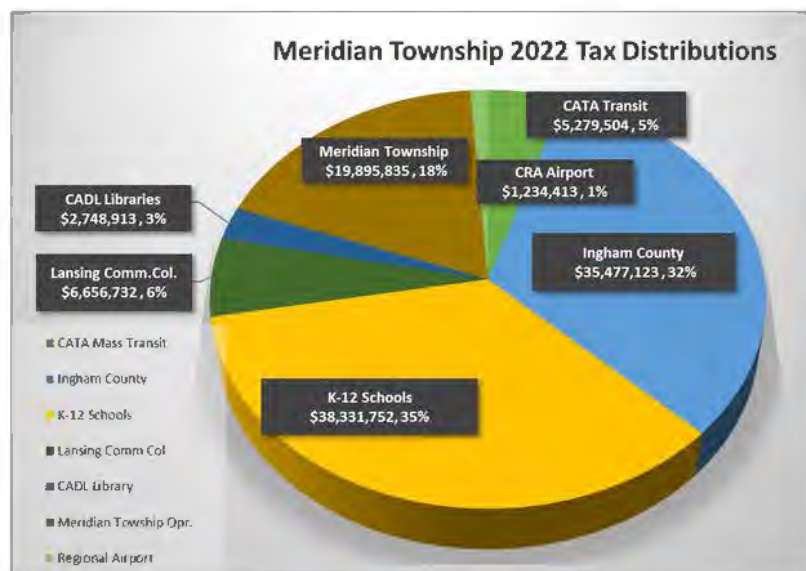
- Mailed out 28,890 summer and winter tax bills, and 861 special assessment bills.
- Delivered approximately 20,000 in personal transactions annually at the counter.
- Answered approximately 35,000 customer service phone calls for taxes and utility billing.
- Mailed, or emailed, approximately 3,000 receipts or duplicate tax bills.
- Provided extensive financial reporting to the Board, auditors, and other taxing authorities.
- Provided the Township with over \$780,000 in earnings from investments.

The Treasurer's Office is required by law to receive and take charge of all funds belonging to the Township and distribute other funds collected to the appropriate taxing authorities. These collections are primarily real estate and personal property taxes, but also include fines, licenses, permits, deposits, bonds, and fees.

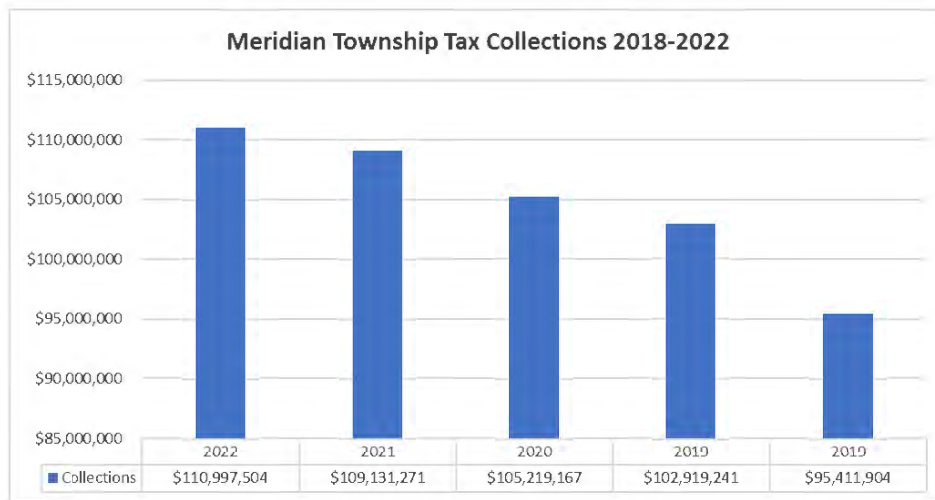
During the calendar year 2022, the Treasurer's Office reported:

Total property taxes collected and processed in 2022 were \$110,997,504. This is up \$1,866,233, or 1.7% from the \$109,131,271 collected in 2021. In 2020, we collected \$105,219,167, \$102,919,241 was collected in 2019, and \$95,411,904 was collected in 2018.

The Treasurer is required to pay out collected funds to local school districts. In Meridian Township, these include the Okemos School District, Haslett School District, East Lansing School District, Williamston School District, and the Ingham Intermediate Schools. Other governmental units receive tax money from Meridian Township according to each taxing authority's millage. These receipts were distributed to our local school districts, Ingham County, Lansing Community College (LCC), Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA), Capital Area District Library (CADL) and the Capital Region Airport Authority (CRAA). Meridian Township operations received approximately 18% of the tax collection in 2022.



Non-tax receipts in 2022 totaled \$31,058,720. These include federal grants, revenue sharing from the State of Michigan, along with other permits, and fees. In 2021, \$20,869,800 was collected in non-tax receipts. The large increase this year was due to the one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants received from the federal government.



- At the end of 2022, the Treasurer’s Office managed \$41,884,380 in fixed and non-fixed investments. Investment income for 2022 increased significantly in 2022 to \$781,213 more the doubling the \$318,515 in earnings in 2021, from all investments.
- Total delinquent personal property taxes collected in 2022 was \$50,637. Down from \$95,808 collected in 2021 and up from \$38,216 collected in 2020. At the end of 2022, there were \$75,075 in delinquent personal property taxes owed to Meridian Township.
- There were no new bankruptcies/receiverships filed by businesses in Meridian Township in 2022. Currently there are 13 delinquent taxpayers going through bankruptcies.
- Throughout 2022 the Treasurer’s staff worked with the Finance Director to continue to implement our new on-line payment system, Invoice Cloud. The Invoice Cloud on-line payments portal provides more options for electronic payments for our residents, without any additional costs to our tax and utility payers.
- The Treasurer served as a Township Board member and attended semi-monthly meetings, and presented quarterly and special reports to the Township Board on investments, collections and expenditures.
- In 2022, the Treasurer’s Staff worked closely with other Township Departments and organizations:
 - Assisted the Assessor with various Tax Tribunal property tax appeal cases.
 - Assisted the Finance Director with documentation for the annual audit.
 - Served on the Meridian Township Pension Board.
 - Assisted the Meridian Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA).
 - Served as the Treasurer of the Meridian Economic Development Corporation (EDC).
 - Board Member of the Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA).
 - Member of the two service clubs: Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Haslett & Okemos.
 - Board Member of the Capital Area Treasurers Association (CAT).

Residents can receive free tax information on their own property by using the Township website (www.meridian.mi.us) or calling the Treasurer’s Office at (517) 853-4140

TEAM MEMBERS

Phil Deschaine, Treasurer
 Deanne Muliatt, Deputy/Assistant to the Treasurer
 Stepahney Guild, Bookkeeper



11.A

**CONSENT AGENDA
BOARD
COMMUNICATIONS
February 21, 2023**

From: [Lynne Page](#)
To: [Planning Commission \(DG\)](#)
Cc: [Board](#); [Tim Schmitt](#)
Subject: 2022-19-Recreational Marijuana Zoning Ordinance
Date: Monday, December 12, 2022 6:16:17 PM
Attachments: [RMHIDTA Marijuana Report 2021.pdf](#)
[Alcohol is No Longer the Most Abused Drug by American Children.pdf](#)
[Clinical Toxicology_Pediatric Marijuana Poisoning_12.05.22.pdf](#)

Meridian Township Planning Commission Meeting 12.12.22
Agenda Item #7-A: Public Hearing
Re: 2022-19 – Recreational Marijuana Ordinance

December 12, 2022

To the Planning Commission:

1. The marijuana ballot question decided by voters on in the 2022 August Primary Election result did not ask whether residents wanted to opt in for recreational marijuana dispensaries, but only whether to ban recreational pot businesses altogether. As almost 25% of voting precincts could not be recounted, the official "No" result prevailed by a reduced margin of 6 votes. The election results reflect residents' deep division on this issue. Michigan's MRTMA law identifies several recreational marijuana businesses, including grower, processor, secure transporter, and safety compliance facilities, in addition to retail facilities. Other communities have opted in for recreational marijuana facilities without allowing retail dispensaries.

2. The health, safety, and welfare of the community is paramount in any land use decision. Using the medical marijuana zoning overlay districts as a template for commercial recreational marijuana development is excessive and could potentially double the number and location of marijuana businesses in the township if both medical and recreational establishments are permitted. Based on recent legal developments in other municipalities, it is reasonable and necessary to rescind the current medical marijuana zoning and non-zoning ordinances to avoid inundating the Township with an excessive number of marijuana businesses.

3. Recreational marijuana businesses should be restricted to a central location near the center of the Township to serve residents safely. I am particularly opposed to the Marijuana Overlay District#5, located at the I-96 gateway to our community on both sides of the Jolly/Okemos intersection because of its close proximity to Hiawatha Elementary School, Okemos High School, and Chippewa Middle School.

Marijuana commerce in our township will impact children. Studies of poison control data published by reputable science journals such as *Clinical Toxicology* (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15563650.2022.2120818>) document that while pediatric alcohol exposure is decreasing, cannabis poisoning is of children is a significant public health problem.

"U.S. Poison Centers reported greater than 330,000 misuse and abuse exposure cases and 450 deaths over 20 years for school-aged children and adolescents, demonstrating a substantial ongoing health impact on this

vulnerable population. The substances most commonly misused/abused reflect widely available substances such as over-the-counter medications, household products and pharmaceuticals commonly prescribed to youth. Differences in age and sex were evident, with males and adolescents more likely to abuse and misuse substances. Although alcohol exposure cases have been slowly decreasing, marijuana exposure cases, especially those involving non-combustible products such as edibles and vaping products, are increasing. This trend has been most apparent in recent years in the wake of legalization and decriminalization in US cannabis laws and future research is needed to better understand how legal cannabis laws may be contributing to these trends."

4. The *Recreational Marijuana Benefit Fact Sheet* received by Staff as correspondence from "outside groups" should not have been appended to Director Schmidt's signed memo. The memo contains unsubstantiated, subjective opinions and outdated information presented as "facts".

In my opinion, the issues of public health and public safety associated with the commercialization of recreational marijuana are more important than any unrealized potential economic benefit. Here is some additional data to consider excerpted from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report for 2021 (<https://www.rmhidta.org/publications?pgid=khxvk038-6a0e2823-f0e2-4f73-b236-34dfc9e4952d>):

Executive Summary

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) program has published annual reports every year since 2013 tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado. The purpose is to provide data and information so that policy makers and citizens can make informed decisions on the issue of marijuana legalization.

Section I: Traffic Fatalities & Impaired Driving

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013, traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for marijuana **increased 138%** while all Colorado traffic deaths **increased 29%**.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **more than doubled** from 55 in 2013 to 131 people killed in 2020.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **increased from 11% in 2013 to 20% in 2020**.

Section II: Marijuana Use

Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013:

- Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older **increased 26%** and is **61% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month adult marijuana use (ages 18 and older) **increased 20%** and is **62% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month college age marijuana (ages 18-25) use **increased 10%** and is **53% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.

- Past month youth marijuana (ages 12-17) use **decreased 22%** and is **39% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **7th** in the nation.

Section III: Public Health

- Marijuana *only* exposures **increased 185%** from 2013 when recreational marijuana was legalized compared to 2020.
- The percent of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has **increased** from **14%** in 2013 to **29%** in 2020.

Section IV: Black Market

- RMHIDTA Colorado Drug Task Forces (10) conducted **294 investigations** of black-market marijuana in Colorado resulting in **168** felony arrests
- Seizures of marijuana reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) in Colorado **increased 48%** from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) when marijuana was commercialized to an average of 257 parcels (2013-2020) during the time recreational marijuana become legalized.

Section V: Societal Impact

- Marijuana tax revenue represents approximately **0.98%** of Colorado's FY 2020 budget.
- **66%** of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

I have attached PDF copies of the documents referenced in this letter. Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,
Lynne Page
3912 Raleigh Drive
Okemos, MI 48864

Alcohol Is No Longer The Most Abused Drug by American Children

HEALTH 09 December 2022 By DAVID NIELD



(Jesús Rodríguez/Unsplash)

The youth of America are abusing booze less and weed more, according to a new study that looked at two decades of data on teens and school-aged children who wound up seeking medical care after taking various substances.

Adolescent cannabis abuse has increased by a whopping 245 percent in the US since 2000, the new research finds, with a particularly dramatic rise occurring in just the past few years.

At the same time, rates of alcohol abuse have declined among those aged between 6 and 18 years. Back in 2000, alcohol was in the top spot on the rather worrying list compiled from a US national poisons database, which records information on calls to poison helplines. Now, it sits in third place.

There has been a wave of cannabis decriminalization in the US in recent years: recreational use is now legal in 19 states. While this is only for adults, the researchers say it has made the drug more widely available and changed public perceptions towards it.

"Ethanol abuse cases exceeded the number of marijuana cases every year from 2000 until 2013," says emergency physician and medical toxicologist Adrienne Hughes, from the Oregon Health and Science University. "Since 2014, marijuana exposure cases have

exceeded ethanol cases every year, and by a greater amount each year than the prior."

In total, 338,727 cases of intentional misuse and abuse of medicines and illicit and recreational drugs amongst school-aged children were reported between 2000 and 2020. Of these cases, nearly 60 percent involved males, while more than 80 percent occurred in young people aged from 13 to 18.

Almost a third of the cases on file resulted in "worse than minor clinical outcomes" and the data shows 0.1 percent of cases (450 young people) were fatal. Deaths were mostly down to opioid abuse, as well as being more common in males and in older teens aged between 16 and 18.

When it comes to weed in particular, the stats suggest the rise in availability of foods containing cannabis products has played a significant role, with average monthly call rates for edibles increasing more than those for other forms of marijuana use, like smoking.

"These edible and vaping products are often marketed in ways that are attractive to young people, and they are considered more discrete and convenient," [says Hughes](#).

"Compared to smoking cannabis, which typically results in an immediate high, intoxication from edible forms of marijuana usually takes several hours, which may lead some individuals to consume greater amounts and experience unexpected and unpredictable highs."

Of the other drugs mentioned in the study, dextromethorphan (found in cough medicine) was actually the most reported substance misused or abused between 2001 and 2016 – though reported cases peaked in 2006 and has been on the decline ever since.

The misuse of over-the-counter medicines, which are more widely available and easier to access than illicit substances, remains a problem for young people, the researchers report. High levels of oral antihistamine misuse were also recorded across the study period. Intentional misuse and abuse of substances was also significantly less common in children than adolescents.

As with any field of science, the more detailed the data the more targeted the response to it can be. Health professionals and government officials can use the stats to fight to lower substance abuse and misuse among younger people, and to understand the consequences of decisions like the widespread legalization of cannabis use.

"Earlier initiation of substance use is an important predictor of developing a substance use disorder later in life," write Hughes and colleagues in their [published paper](#).

"As such, clinicians who care for children and adolescents should be well-informed about emerging and shifting patterns of drug abuse and misuse to offer early identification and intervention for problematic substance use."

The research has been published in [Clinical Toxicology](#).



Trends in intentional abuse and misuse ingestions in school-aged children and adolescents reported to US poison centers from 2000-2020

Adrienne R. Hughes, Sara Grusing, Amber Lin, Robert G. Hendrickson, David C. Sheridan, Rebecca Marshall & B. Zane Horowitz

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To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2022.2120818>



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Trends in intentional abuse and misuse ingestions in school-aged children and adolescents reported to US poison centers from 2000–2020

Adrienne R. Hughes^{a,b}, Sara Grusing^c, Amber Lin^a, Robert G. Hendrickson^{a,b} , David C. Sheridan^a, Rebecca Marshall^d and B. Zane Horowitz^b

^aDepartment of Emergency Medicine, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, USA; ^bOregon-Alaska Poison Center, Portland, OR, USA; ^cOregon Health and Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health, Portland, OR, USA; ^dChild Psychiatry, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, USA

ABSTRACT

Context: Childhood and adolescent misuse and abuse exposures remain a serious public health challenge in the United States. This study aimed to describe recent trends and patterns of intentional substance misuse and abuse exposures among school-aged children and adolescents in the United States.

Methods: This study was a retrospective cohort study of intentional misuse and abuse exposures in children 6 through 18 years reported to the National Poison Data System (NPDS) from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2020. Demographic trends, reported clinical effects, treatments, management sites, and health outcomes were assessed overall and within four age categories: 6–9, 10–12, 13–15, and 16–18.

Results: Between 2000 and 2020, there were 338,727 cases regarding intentional misuse and abuse exposures for children ages 6 through 18 years old. Overall, misuse/abuse ingestions fluctuated over time, with a peak in 2011. The majority of intentional misuse/abuse ingestions occurred in males (58.3%), and more than 80% of all reported exposure cases occurred in youth aged 13 to 18. 32.6% of ingestions resulted in worse than minor clinical outcomes. Older age groups had a greater number of severe medical outcomes compared to younger age groups. Major or life-threatening exposures (including those resulting in death) were more common in males. Overall, deaths were rare ($n=450$, 0.1%). Male sex, older age, abuse ingestions, exposure site of a public area or other residence, and multiple ingested substances were other factors associated with increased mortality. Marijuana exposure rates had the highest average monthly increase overall, with the most dramatic rise occurring from 2017 to 2020. Edible marijuana preparations accounted for the highest increase in call rates compared with all other forms of marijuana.

Discussion and Conclusion: With over 330,000 poison center cases reported during the 20-year study period, intentional substance misuse and abuse exposures substantially impact the pediatric population. The substances most commonly misused/abused are more widely available substances such as over-the-counter medications, household products and pharmaceuticals commonly prescribed to youth. Differences in age and sex were evident, with males and adolescents more likely to abuse and misuse substances. Our study describes an upward trend in marijuana misuse/abuse exposures among youth, especially those involving edible products. These findings highlight an ongoing concern about the impact of rapidly evolving cannabis legalization on this vulnerable population.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 16 May 2022
Revised 17 August 2022
Accepted 30 August 2022

KEYWORDS

Pediatric; adolescent; toxicity; overdose; substance use

Introduction

Substance misuse and abuse are significant public health threats. While national survey data helps track substance use trends among young people, it often lags behind current trends and information about impacts on the healthcare system. These surveillance methods are usually limited to adolescents and adults and rarely include school-aged children. Earlier initiation of substance use is an important predictor of developing a substance use disorder later in life. As such, clinicians who care for children and adolescents should be well-informed about emerging and shifting patterns of drug abuse and misuse to offer early identification and intervention for problematic substance use. Additionally, age-specific

substance misuse/abuse trends may provide further insight and direction for future prevention efforts. This study aimed to identify recent outcomes and trends in intentional substance misuse and abuse among school-aged children and adolescents using a national source of poison center case data over 20 years.

Methods

This is a retrospective cohort study of intentional misuse and abuse exposures in school-aged children and adolescents reported to the National Poison Data System (NPDS) from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2020. NPDS is maintained by the American Association of Poison Control

Centers (AAPCC). Data are collected at each certified regional U.S. Poison Control Center (PCCs). Currently, 55 PCCs serve the entire U.S. population, territories, and Washington DC. Poison centers receive calls from the public, health professionals, and public health agencies for exposure to various substances through a 24-hour poison helpline. PCCs are staffed 24 h a day by health professionals with specialized training in toxicology. These trained specialists in poison information collect and code case data entered into an electronic health record collection system that is uploaded to NPDS in near real-time.

We received coded, de-identified NPDS data for all intentional abuse and misuse cases in individuals aged 6 through 18 years old. *Intentional misuse* is defined as an exposure resulting from the intentional improper or incorrect use of a substance for reasons other than the pursuit of a psychotropic effect. *Intentional abuse* exposures are from the intentional improper or incorrect use of a substance in which the patient was likely attempting to gain a "high," euphoric effect or some other psychotropic effect, including recreational use of a substance for any effect. Only coded data were available to the investigators, not free text fields. We excluded cases from unknown geographic regions and those with missing age. The data were a mix of single-substance and polysubstance exposures; however, the number of single substance exposures was explicitly reported.

Statistical analysis

Data were received from the NPDS in Excel (Microsoft, Redmond, WA) format. Data analysis was largely descriptive and included summary statistics for demographic trends, reported clinical effects, treatments, management sites, and health outcomes. We assessed trends of intentional abuse/misuse exposures overall and within four age categories: 6–9, 10–12, 13–15, and 16–18. The top 10 most ingested substances were determined for each year of the study and plotted over time. Additionally, the substances with the highest average monthly increase in exposure rates were determined overall and for each age group using linear regression. We also analyzed marijuana exposures by type of marijuana preparation for all ages and by age group, sorted by the average monthly increase. Multivariable logistic regression of odds of death after a misuse/abuse ingestion was also performed. To correct for multiple testing, we calculated adjusted p-values using the Hochberg and Benjamini adaptive step-up Bonferroni method [1]. To test for multicollinearity, we calculated the variance inflation factor (VIF) for each variable, and to check model fit and specification, we calculated the c-statistic (AUROC) and Hosmer–Lemeshow goodness-of-fit statistic.

Clinical outcome was coded using a priori definitions from the NPDS coding manual: no effect, minor effect, moderate effect, major effect, or death [2]. This study was determined exempt by the institutional review board of Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU). Data management and analysis was performed in SAS 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA),

and analysis and creation of figures was performed in R 4.0.3 (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

Results

Patient characteristics

Between 2000 and 2020, US Poison Control Centers (PCCs) consulted on 338,727 cases regarding intentional misuse and abuse exposures for children ages 6 through 18 years old. Characteristics of exposures are described in Table 1. Overall, the frequency of misuse/abuse ingestions fluctuated over time, with a peak in 2011 (Figure 1). The majority of intentional misuse/abuse ingestions occurred in males (58.3%), and more than 80% of all reported exposure cases occurred in youth aged 13 to 18 (Table 1). The greatest proportion of misuse/abuse cases involved exposures in adolescents aged 16–18 (48.5%). Overall, intentional abuse cases were more frequent than misuse (57.4% vs. 42.6%). Misuse ingestions were more common in younger age groups, while abuse ingestions occurred more frequently in older age groups. A single substance was involved in 81.2% (275,144) of misuse/abuse exposures (Table 1).

Substance trends

Figure 2 illustrates trends in total misuse/abuse cases for the most reported substances per year over the 20-year period. In 2000, the largest number of misuse/abuse cases involved exposure to ethanol (1318, 9.8%). Dextromethorphan was the most reported misused/abused substance from 2001 to 2016. Since 2018, the most reported misused/abused substance involved exposure to marijuana. Dextromethorphan had the highest total number of exposure cases (51,667, 15.25%) over the study period, followed by cases for benzodiazepines (26,037, 7.68%). Intentional misuse/abuse ingestions of diphenhydramine alone have been steadily increasing, with the number of cases reported in NPDS increasing from a low of 193 cases in 2000 to 668 cases in 2020.

Cases regarding abuse or misuse of marijuana have steadily increased over the study period (Figure 2). There were 510 and 1761 marijuana exposure cases in 2000 and 2020, respectively, corresponding with a 245% increase during the 20 years (Figure 2). Marijuana exposure cases remained relatively stable from 2000 to 2009 (mean: 636.7, range: 510–713), then steadily rose beginning around 2011, with an even more dramatic rise in cases from 2017 to 2020. This upward trend contrasts with ethanol exposure cases, which have gradually declined over the study period. There were a total of 1318 ethanol cases in 2000 and 916 in 2020, with an average linear decrease of 28.1 exposures each year (95% CI 21.8 to 34.4, $p < 0.01$) across the study period. Ethanol misuse/abuse cases exceeded the number of marijuana cases every year from 2000 through 2013. In 2014, marijuana misuse/abuse exposure cases surpassed ethanol cases, and since then, marijuana exposure cases have exceeded ethanol cases every year, and by a greater amount each year than the prior.

Table 1. Population characteristics, clinical effects, therapies, and outcomes of abuse and misuse ingestions, *n* = 338,727.

	All cases <i>N</i> = 338,727		Ages 6-9 years 28,086 (8.3%)		Ages 10-12 years 29,402 (8.7%)		Ages 13-15 years 117,019 (34.6%)		Ages 16-18 years 164,220 (48.5%)	
Gender										
Female	140,870	41.6%	10,928	38.9%	11,307	38.5%	56,094	47.9%	62,541	38.1%
Male	197,344	58.3%	17,049	60.7%	17,943	61%	60,788	51.9%	101,564	61.8%
Unknown	513	0.2%	109	0.4%	152	0.5%	137	0.1%	115	0.1%
Reason										
Intentional Abuse	194,292	57.4%	1,529	5.4%	7,462	25.4%	73,565	62.9%	111,736	68%
Intentional Misuse	144,435	42.6%	26,557	94.6%	21,940	74.6%	43,454	37.1%	52,484	32%
Single substance ingestion	275,144	81.2%	26,565	94.6%	26,728	90.9%	95,776	81.8%	126,075	76.8%
Exposure site										
Own residence	244,590	72.2%	21,651	77.1%	19,216	65.4%	80,636	68.9%	123,087	75%
School	35,388	10.4%	3,851	13.7%	6,984	23.8%	16,039	13.7%	8,514	5.2%
Other residence	16,725	4.9%	1,528	5.4%	1,422	4.8%	5,968	5.1%	7,807	4.8%
Public area	9,925	2.9%	517	1.8%	600	2%	3,244	2.8%	5,564	3.4%
Other	11,916	3.5%	437	1.6%	702	2.4%	4,275	3.7%	6,502	4%
Unknown	20,183	6%	102	0.4%	478	1.6%	6,857	5.9%	12,746	7.8%
Clinical effects										
Cardiac arrest	272	0.1%	21	0.1%	34	0.1%	81	0.1%	136	0.1%
Hypotension	8,829	2.6%	776	2.8%	774	2.6%	3,022	2.6%	4,257	2.6%
Respiratory arrest	516	0.2%	40	0.1%	37	0.1%	174	0.1%	265	0.2%
Ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation	232	0.1%	17	0.1%	30	0.1%	66	0.1%	119	0.1%
Dysrhythmia not otherwise specified	606	0.2%	44	0.2%	46	0.2%	223	0.2%	293	0.2%
Seizure	6,374	1.9%	523	1.9%	563	1.9%	2,140	1.8%	3,148	1.9%
Therapies										
ECMO	13	0%	0	0%	0	0%	6	0%	7	0%
CPR	550	0.2%	4	0%	14	0%	111	0.1%	421	0.3%
Hemodialysis	114	0%	0	0%	2	0%	23	0%	89	0.1%
Intubation	4,677	1.4%	22	0.1%	100	0.3%	1,374	1.2%	3,181	1.9%
Ventilator	4,114	1.2%	16	0.1%	86	0.3%	1,191	1%	2,821	1.7%
Vasopressors	709	0.2%	4	0%	15	0.1%	165	0.1%	525	0.3%
Highest level of care										
Patient lost to follow-up/left AMA	89,165	26.3%	19,651	70%	15,668	53.3%	25,744	22%	28,102	17.1%
Treated/evaluated and released	168,721	49.8%	6,827	24.3%	10,302	35%	63,090	53.9%	88,502	53.9%
Admitted to critical care unit	30,936	9.1%	472	1.7%	1,026	3.5%	10,098	8.6%	19,340	11.8%
Admitted to noncritical care unit	26,198	7.7%	732	2.6%	1,324	4.5%	9,360	8%	14,782	9%
Admitted to psychiatric care facility	16,973	5%	94	0.3%	628	2.1%	6,487	5.5%	9,764	5.9%
Patient refused referral/did not arrive at HCF	6,734	2%	310	1.1%	454	1.5%	2,240	1.9%	3,730	2.3%
Outcomes										
Moderate	100,333	29.6%	2,078	7.4%	3,997	13.6%	34,550	29.5%	59,708	36.4%
Major	9,555	2.8%	105	0.4%	254	0.9%	2,753	2.4%	6,443	3.9%
Death	450	0.1%	3	0%	14	0%	65	0.1%	368	0.2%

Table 2 lists those substances with the highest average monthly increase in exposure rate overall and for each age group. There were differences in the types of exposures that accounted for the increased case rates across each age group. Marijuana (all preparations) exposure rates had the highest average monthly increase overall, followed by cannabidiol (CBD), diphenhydramine-alone, eCigarettes (nicotine), and benzodiazepines (all $p < 0.01$). Exposures from vitamins, plants, melatonin, and hand-sanitizers increased during the study period in younger age groups. In contrast, marijuana, diphenhydramine-alone, hand sanitizers, CBD, e-cigarettes (nicotine), and benzodiazepine exposures accounted for the highest increase in case rates amongst older age groups.

Table 3 lists the top two marijuana preparations with the highest monthly average increase by age group. Edible marijuana preparations had the highest average monthly increase

in call rates compared with all other forms of marijuana overall and within each age group except the 6 through 9-year-old group. Overall, there was an increase in edible marijuana exposures by 11.7 cases per month from 2000 to 2020 (95% CI 9.7-13.8, $p < 0.0001$). Adolescents (age 13–18 years) had an increase in exposures to concentrated extracts during the study period.

Clinical effects

Several clinical effects occurred at similar rates across all the age groups, including seizures, hypotension, ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation, and dysrhythmia (Table 1). One-third (32.6%) of ingestions resulted in worse than minor clinical outcomes. Older age groups had a greater number of severe medical outcomes compared to younger age groups. Major or life-threatening exposures (including those resulting in death) were more common in males. Overall, deaths were rare ($n = 450$, 0.1%). Most deaths occurred in those 16 through 18 years old ($n = 368$, 81.7%), with only three deaths in children aged 6 through 9 years (Table 1). Table 4 lists those factors associated with the highest increase in odds of death. After controlling for patient demographics and substances ingested, we found that opioid exposures were associated with the highest increase in odds of death (15.6, 95% CI: 12.6–19.3, $p < 0.01$). Opioids were associated with 286 instances of death (Table 5). No documentation of laboratory verification were available in these facilities, but fatality cases undergo a second level of review during the NPDS process to determine the contribution of the substance with the death and to maximize coding accuracy. Male sex, older age, abuse ingestions, exposure site of public area or other residence, and multiple ingested substances were other factors

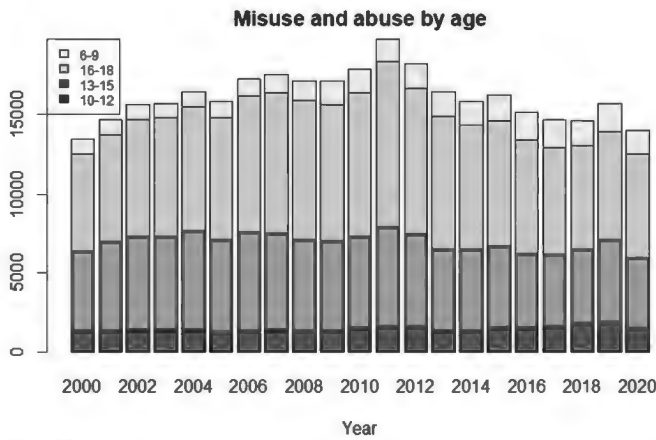


Figure 1. Misuse/abuse ingestions by age and sex over time, 2000-2020.

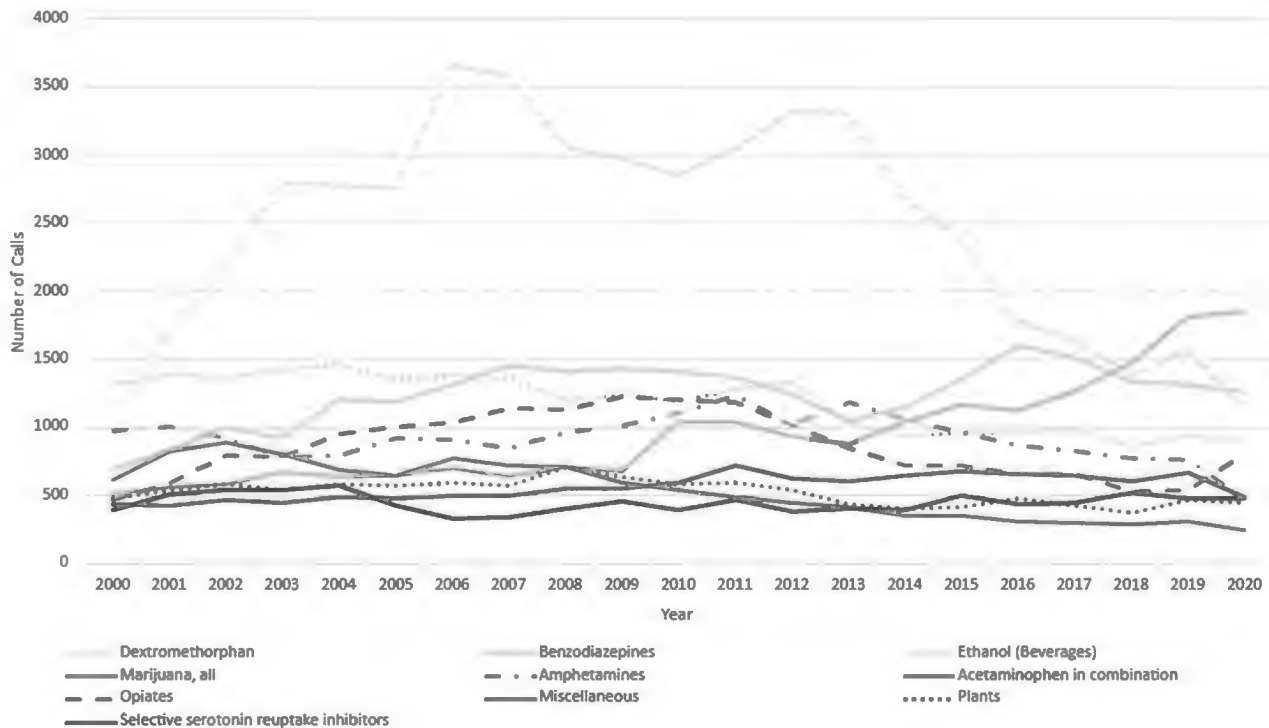


Figure 2. Top 10 substances ingested in misuse/abuse ingestions 2000-2020, by year.

Table 2. Substances with highest monthly average increase, 2000-2020 across $n = 338,727$ cases.

Grouped generic code name	N Months with Substance Present	Average monthly increase in cases (95% CI)	p-value
All ages			
Marijuana	252	4.8(4.4–5.2)	<0.01
Cannabidiol (CBD)	21	4(1.5–6.6)	0.99
Diphenhydramine alone	252	2.3(2.1–2.4)	<0.01
eCigarettes	90	2(1.3–2.7)	<0.01
Benzodiazepines	252	1.9(1.4–2.3)	<0.01
Ages 6-9			
Vitamins	250	0.6(0.5–0.7)	<0.01
Plants	247	0.4(0.2–0.5)	<0.01
Melatonin	129	0.3(0.3–0.4)	<0.01
Hand Sanitizers	110	0.3(0.1–0.5)	0.23
Objects (Pencils, Coins, Glass, Incense, Fireworks, Golf Balls, Ashes, Feces)	245	0.3(0.2–0.3)	<0.01
Ages 10-12			
Hand Sanitizers	106	0.7(0.4–0.9)	<0.01
Other Adverse Reactions to Food	30	0.4(-0.1–1)	0.99
Vitamins	237	0.3(0.2–0.4)	<0.01
Melatonin	115	0.2(0.1–0.2)	<0.01
Marijuana	177	0.2(0.1–0.2)	<0.01
Ages 13-15			
Marijuana	252	1.7(1.5–1.9)	<0.01
Cannabidiol (CBD)	16	1.2(-0.7–3.1)	0.99
Diphenhydramine alone	252	0.9(0.8–1)	<0.01
Hand Sanitizers	114	0.4(0.3–0.6)	<0.01
Benzodiazepines	252	0.4(0.2–0.6)	<0.010.06
Ages 16-18			
Marijuana, Synthetic Phenethylamines, Analogs, and Precursors	252	2.9(2.7–3.1)	<0.01
	21	1.9(-1.2–5.1)	0.99
Benzodiazepines	252	1.6(1.3–1.8)	<0.01
Cannabidiol (CBD)	15	1.4(-0.4–3.3)	0.99
eCigarettes	85	1.4(0.8–1.9)	<0.01

Table 3. Top 2 marijuana preparations with highest monthly average increase by age group, 2000-2020 across $n = 338,727$ cases.

Grouped generic code name	N Months with Substance Present	Average monthly increase in cases (95% CI)	p-value
Ages 6-9			
Not applicable, no increase			
Ages 10-12			
Marijuana: Edible Preparation	28	0.6(0.2–1)	0.01
Marijuana: Dried Plant	171	0.1(0–0.1)	<0.01
Ages 13-15			
Marijuana: Edible Preparation	44	5.1(3.9–6.4)	<0.01
Marijuana: Concentrated Extract (Including Oils and Tinctures)	42	1.1(-0.1–2.4)	0.18
Ages 16-18			
Marijuana: Edible Preparation	47	5.6(4.5–6.8)	<0.01
Marijuana: Concentrated Extract (Including Oils and Tinctures)	48	1.9(0.9–3)	<0.01

associated with increased mortality (Table 4). In the final regression model, there was no evidence of multicollinearity (all VIF < 1.5), and diagnostics indicated good model fit (Hosmer-Lemeshow $p = 0.736$; c -statistic = 0.894).

Of the 331,993 cases managed in a health care facility (HCF), 168,721 (50.82%) were treated and released, 30,936 (9.31%) were admitted to a critical care unit, 26,198 (7.89%) were admitted to a non-critical care unit, and 16,973 (5.11%) were admitted directly to a psychiatric facility (Table 1). The percentage of patients treated in a HCF varied considerably with age. Only 8.36% of children 6-9 years and 8.71% of children between 10 and 12 years were managed in a HCF compared to 34.57% of younger teenagers (13–15 years) and 48.34% of older teens (age 16–18 years).

Discussion

The current study examined trends in US intentional abuse and misuse exposures in school-aged children and

adolescents from 2000 to 2020. With over 330,000 poison center cases reported during the 20-year study period, intentional substance misuse and abuse exposures substantially impact the pediatric population. The most commonly misused/abused substances are more widely available substances, such as over-the-counter medications, household products and pharmaceuticals commonly prescribed to youth. Consistent with other studies, our current data indicate higher abuse/misuse among males and older adolescents [3–5].

Developmental and societal factors contributing to pediatric poisoning vary widely from childhood to adolescence, as do the substances involved in these exposures. Effective prevention and treatment efforts require a thorough understanding of the specific vulnerabilities of different pediatric age groups. In the current study, intentional misuse and abuse exposures were significantly less common in children than adolescents, with the majority due to misuse rather

than abuse, especially in children aged 6 to 9 years; this is consistent with prior studies [6]. While both misuse and abuse ingestions increased with age, intentional abuse was

significantly more common among adolescents than in children aged 6 to 12 years.

Consistent with prior literature, the current data indicate high sustained OTC medication misuse and abuse rates among older children and teens. OTC antihistamines were among the most commonly misused/abused substances in this study. Many OTC medications have a high potential for abuse and misuse since they are legal and easily obtainable without a prescription. Children and teens may perceive OTC drugs as relatively safe; however, a growing body of evidence demonstrates increasing rates of abuse and overdose of OTC medications in the United States [3, 7–10].

While dextromethorphan (DXM) was the most reported substance over the study period, with high average monthly increase in misuse/abuse exposures, DXM misuse/abuse rates peaked in 2006 and have decreased since that time (Figure 2). This observed decline in DXM abuse corresponds to increasing public health efforts and initiatives to reduce and prevent OTC medication abuse. In 2012, California became the first state to prohibit sales of DXM-containing products to minors. Since then, 21 states have adopted similar laws to combat teen abuse of OTC medications containing dextromethorphan.

Our study describes an upward trend in cannabis misuse/abuse exposures. These findings may reflect the impact of rapidly evolving cannabis legalization on this vulnerable population. While legalization of cannabis is primarily restricted to adult populations, it has rendered the drug more accessible to children and adolescents. In Canada, where national legalization occurred, and edibles became available in 2021, the proportion of cannabis-related

Table 4. Multivariable logistic regression of odds of death after a misuse/abuse ingestion.

	Odds of death (95% CI)	p-value
Gender		<0.01
Female	Referent	
Male	1.4(1.1–1.7)	
Unknown	5.2(0.7–38.4)	
Age		<0.01
6–9	0.3(0.1–1)	
10–12	0.7(0.4–1.2)	
13–15	0.4(0.3–0.5)	
16–18	referent	
Year	1.0(1.0–1.1)	<0.01
Exposure site		<0.01
Own residence	referent	
School	0.1(0.0–0.3)	
Public area	1.8(1.2–2.7)	
Other residence	2.4(1.8–3.3)	
Other/Unknown	1.5(1.2–2)	
Reason for ingestion		<0.01
Misuse	referent	
Abuse	5.9(3.9–8.9)	
Multiple substances	1.6(1.3–2)	<0.01
Substances		
Acetaminophen	0.2(0.1–0.3)	<0.01
Benzodiazepines	0.7(0.5–0.9)	0.01
Dextromethorphan	0.1(0.1–0.3)	<0.01
Diphenhydramine	0.6(0.2–1.3)	0.16
Ethanol beverages	0.8(0.6–1)	0.10
Methamphetamine	2.5(1.9–3.2)	<0.01
Opioids	15.6(12.6–19.3)	<0.01

Results in bold, italics are statistically significant, $p < 0.05$.

Table 5. Substances coded as fatalities.^a

Substance Coded in Death Cases	N deaths	N ingestions of this substance	% of all ingestions that resulted in death
OPIOIDS	286		
Opiate NOT in OTC combination	117	4,332	2.7%
Opiate in OTC combinations	89	13,782	0.6%
Heroin	39	1,917	2.0%
Non-Prescription Fentanyl	34	94	36.2%
Tramadol	5	2,372	0.2%
Synthetic Opioids (Excluding Pharmaceutical Preps)	2	12	16.7%
Benzodiazepines	69	26,037	0.3%
STIMULANTS	141		
Amphetamines and Related Compounds	23	10,277	0.2%
Methamphetamines	22	2,526	0.9%
Hallucinogenic Amphetamines	50	6,682	0.7%
Cocaine	46	4,023	1.1%
Synthetic Phenethylamines, Analogs, and Precursors	2	345	0.6%
Ketamine and Analogs	2	423	0.5%
MARIJUANA	66		
Marijuana: Dried Plant	45	17,302	0.3%
Synthetic Cannabinoids, Analogs and Precursors	12	8,246	0.1%
Marijuana: Other or Unknown Preparation	7	488	1.4%
Marijuana: Concentrated Extract	2	664	0.3%
Ethanol (Beverages)	54	24,922	0.2%
ANTIDEPRESSANTS	19		
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)	9	9,092	0.1%
Other Types of Antidepressant	4	2,012	0.2%
Tricyclic Antidepressant (TCA)	2	613	0.3%
Bupropion	2	710	0.3%
Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor (MAOI)	1	7	14.3%
Serotonin Antagonist and Reuptake Inhibitor (SARI)	1	2,364	0.0%
Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)	9	4,198	0.2%
Other Hallucinogens	5	328	1.5%
Diphenhydramine alone	6	9,457	0.1%

^aThere were other substances coded as occurring in one instance only that are not included.

Emergency Department (ED) visits with hospitalization for children aged 0 to 9 years old increased significantly after the introduction of edibles [11]. This increase occurred despite a decrease in total poisoning-related pediatric ED visits. As the legal landscape around cannabis continues to evolve rapidly, so do the social norms around its use, with an overall steady decline in perceived risk associated with cannabis since 2009 [12,13]. Increased availability and peer norms changes are likely strong drivers of increasing cannabis use.

Along with increasing cannabis legalization, we are also seeing the emergence of alternative modes of consumption, especially non-combustible products such as edibles and vaping devices. A significant proportion of youth use alternative methods to consume cannabis [14,15]. In the current study, edible marijuana products had the highest average monthly increase in case rates across all ages compared with any other form of marijuana. This was also true within each age group, except for children 6 through 9. Marijuana concentrates/extracts (e.g. cannabis vaping liquid) were also used at significantly increasing rates by adolescents (aged 13–18 years). These edible products and vaping products are often marketed in ways that are attractive to youth, can be used with more discretion, and are more convenient. A focus group study with teenagers found that edibles were attractive to those concerned about smoking or the smell associated with smoking marijuana [16].

While several studies show that edible cannabis products are increasingly perceived as less harmful by adolescents, concerns exist about their potency and delayed effects [17–19]. Compared to smoking cannabis, which typically results in an immediate and titratable high, intoxication from edibles usually takes several hours, which may lead some individuals to consume greater amounts and cause delayed effects with unexpected and unpredictable highs. A study of marijuana-related Emergency Department (ED) visits in Colorado between 2012 and 2016 found that edible cannabis consumption led to more acute psychiatric symptoms and cardiovascular events than inhaled cannabis and that ED visits due to edibles were 33 times higher than expected, when controlled for product sales in the state [20]. Furthermore, the duration of time since cannabis legalization is associated with earlier age of onset of edible use in adolescents [15].

Marijuana and alcohol are the two most abused substances reported by adolescents [21]. Prior to 2007, Monitoring the Future (MTF) data suggests that alcohol and marijuana use generally fluctuated in parallel; when substance use increased for one, so did the other. Since 2007, trends in reported use of these two substances have changed. While alcohol use declined markedly between 2007 and 2020, marijuana use remained steady or increased for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders [21]. These findings align with the current study, which indicates a gradual decline in poison center cases for alcohol misuse/abuse over the study period with a concomitant rise in marijuana cases. While increased marijuana use may in part account for a reduction in alcohol use, it is unclear if and to what extent the reported change in marijuana leads to a change in alcohol use. These observed trends in poison-center cases mirror MTF surveillance data that indicate an ongoing decline in admitted adolescent binge drinking since the recent

peaks reached in the 1990s with a concomitant ongoing rise in admitted marijuana use [21].

Limitations

The National Poison Data System is dependent on voluntary reporting and the data likely underrepresents the actual number of suspected intentional misuse and abuse exposures. The AAPCC maintains the NPDS, which houses only de-identified case records of self-reported cases managed by US poison centers. NPDS data do not reflect the entire universe of exposures to a particular substance nor the opinions of the AAPCC. NPDS data should not be construed to represent the complete incidence of exposures to any substance(s). Exposure does not necessarily represent poisoning or overdose. Not all substances coded are verified by a toxicology laboratory. The accuracy and completeness of the data relies on correct coding within the NPDS database by poison center specialists. Neither AAPCC nor the individual regional poison center can completely verify the accuracy of every report. Our analysis was limited to exposure cases classified as abuse or misuse. It is possible that additional misuse or abuse cases were classified otherwise and thus were missed. Despite these limitations, NPDS data can be a valuable tool for evaluating the epidemiology of substance misuse/abuse at the national level.

Conclusion

U.S. Poison Centers reported greater than 330,000 misuse and abuse exposure cases and 450 deaths over 20 years for school-aged children and adolescents, demonstrating a substantial ongoing health impact on this vulnerable population. The substances most commonly misused/abused reflect widely available substances such as over-the-counter medications, household products and pharmaceuticals commonly prescribed to youth. Differences in age and sex were evident, with males and adolescents more likely to abuse and misuse substances. Although alcohol exposure cases have been slowly decreasing, marijuana exposure cases, especially those involving non-combustible products such as edibles and vaping products, are increasing. This trend has been most apparent in recent years in the wake of legalization and decriminalization in US cannabis laws and future research is needed to better understand how legal cannabis laws may be contributing to these trends.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

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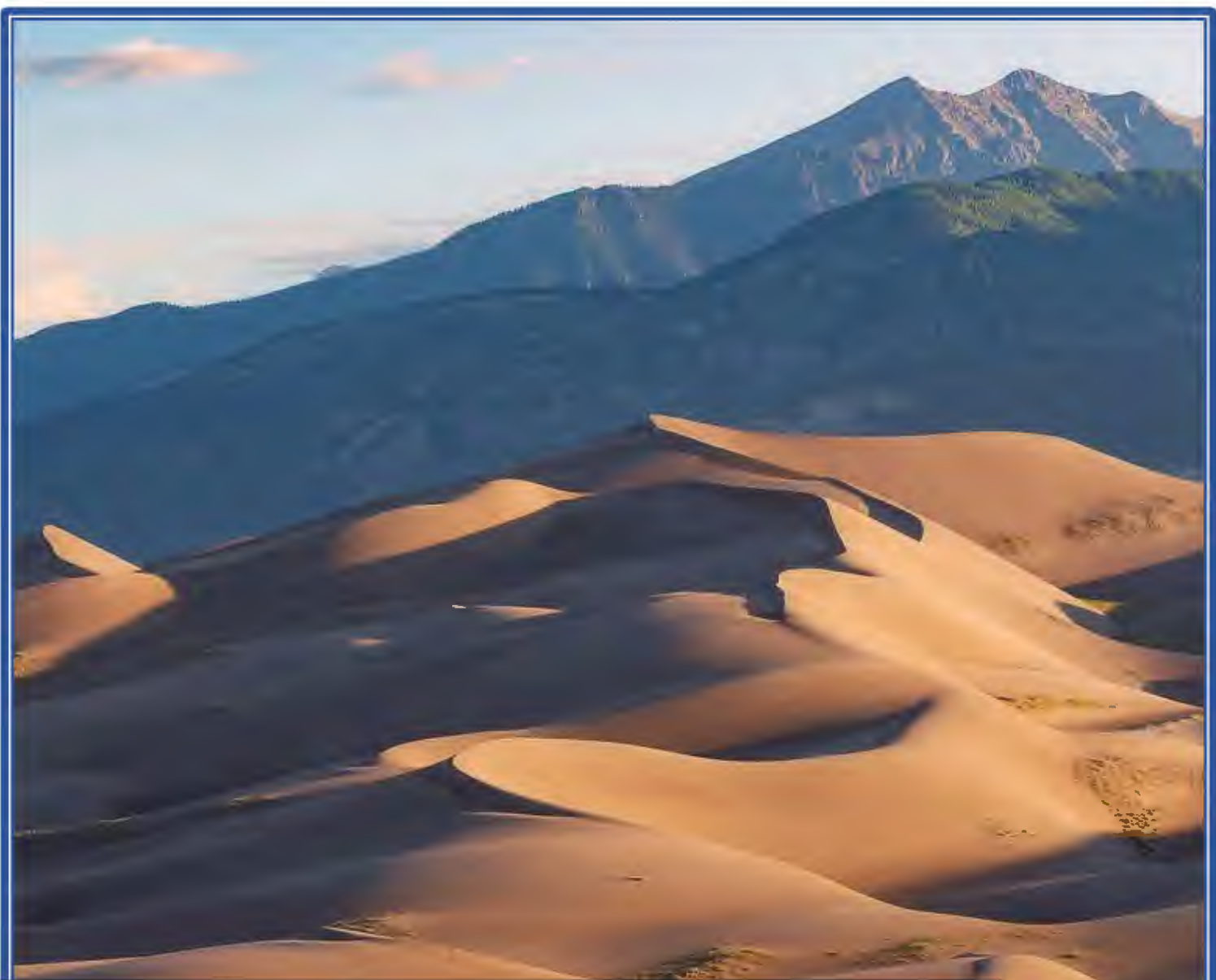
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THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN COLORADO: *THE IMPACT*

Volume 8

September 2021

Rocky Mountain High Intensity
Drug Trafficking Area



Photo: Collin Riley

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**PREPARED BY THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA
INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT CENTER
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Executive Summary

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) program has published annual reports every year since 2013 tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado. The purpose is to provide data and information so that policy makers and citizens can make informed decisions on the issue of marijuana legalization.

Section I: Traffic Fatalities & Impaired Driving

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013, traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for marijuana **increased 138%** while all Colorado traffic deaths **increased 29%**.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **more than doubled** from 55 in 2013 to 131 people killed in 2020.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **increased from 11% in 2013 to 20%** in 2020.

Section II: Marijuana Use

Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013:

- Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older **increased 26%** and is **61% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month adult marijuana use (ages 18 and older) **increased 20%** and is **62% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month college age marijuana (ages 18-25) use **increased 10%** and is **53% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month youth marijuana (ages 12-17) use **decreased 22%** and is **39% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **7th** in the nation.

Section III: Public Health

- Marijuana *only* exposures **increased 185%** from 2013 when recreational marijuana was legalized compared to 2020.
- Treatment for marijuana use for all ages **decreased 34%** from 2013 to 2020.
- The percent of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has **increased** from **14%** in 2013 to **29%** in 2020.

Section IV: Black Market

- RMHIDTA Colorado Drug Task Forces (10) conducted **294 investigations** of black-market marijuana in Colorado resulting in:
 - **168** felony arrests
 - **5.54** tons of marijuana seized
 - **86,502** marijuana plants seized
 - **21** different states the marijuana was destined
- Seizures of marijuana reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) in Colorado **increased 48%** from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) when marijuana was commercialized to an average of 257 parcels (2013-2020) during the time recreational marijuana become legalized.

Section V: Societal Impact

- Marijuana tax revenue represent approximately **0.98%** of Colorado's FY 2020 budget.
- **66%** of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this annual report is to document the impact of the legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational use in Colorado. Colorado serves as an experimental lab for the nation to determine the impact of legalizing marijuana. This is an important opportunity to gather and examine meaningful data and identify trends. Citizens and policymakers nationwide may want to delay any decisions on this important issue until there is sufficient and accurate data to make informed decisions. Readers are encouraged to review previous volumes of this report for a comprehensive understanding of the topic. These reports were prepared to identify data and trends related to the legalization of marijuana so that informed decisions can be made regarding this issue.

Background

It is important to note that, for purposes of the debate on legalizing marijuana in Colorado, there are three distinct timeframes to consider: the early medical marijuana era (2000-2008), the medical marijuana commercialization era (2009–current) and the recreational marijuana era (2013–current).

- **2000 – 2008, Early Medical Marijuana Era:** In November 2000, Colorado voters passed Amendment 20 which permitted a qualifying patient, and/or caregiver of a patient, to possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana and grow 6 marijuana plants for medical purposes. During that time there were between 1,000 and 4,800 medical marijuana cardholders and no known dispensaries operating in the state.
- **2009 – Current, Medical Marijuana Commercialization Era:** Beginning in 2009 due to a number of events, marijuana became de facto legalized through the commercialization of the medical marijuana industry. By the end of 2012, there were over 100,000 medical marijuana cardholders and 500 licensed dispensaries operating in Colorado. There were also licensed cultivation operations and edible manufacturers.
- **2013 – Current, Recreational Marijuana Legalization Era:** In November 2012, Colorado voters passed Constitutional Amendment 64 which legalized marijuana for recreational purposes for anyone over the age of 21. The amendment also allowed for licensed marijuana retail stores, cultivation operations and edible manufacturers. Retail marijuana businesses became operational January 1, 2014.

NOTE:

Data, if available, will compare post-2009 when medical marijuana became commercialized and after 2013 when recreational marijuana became legalized.

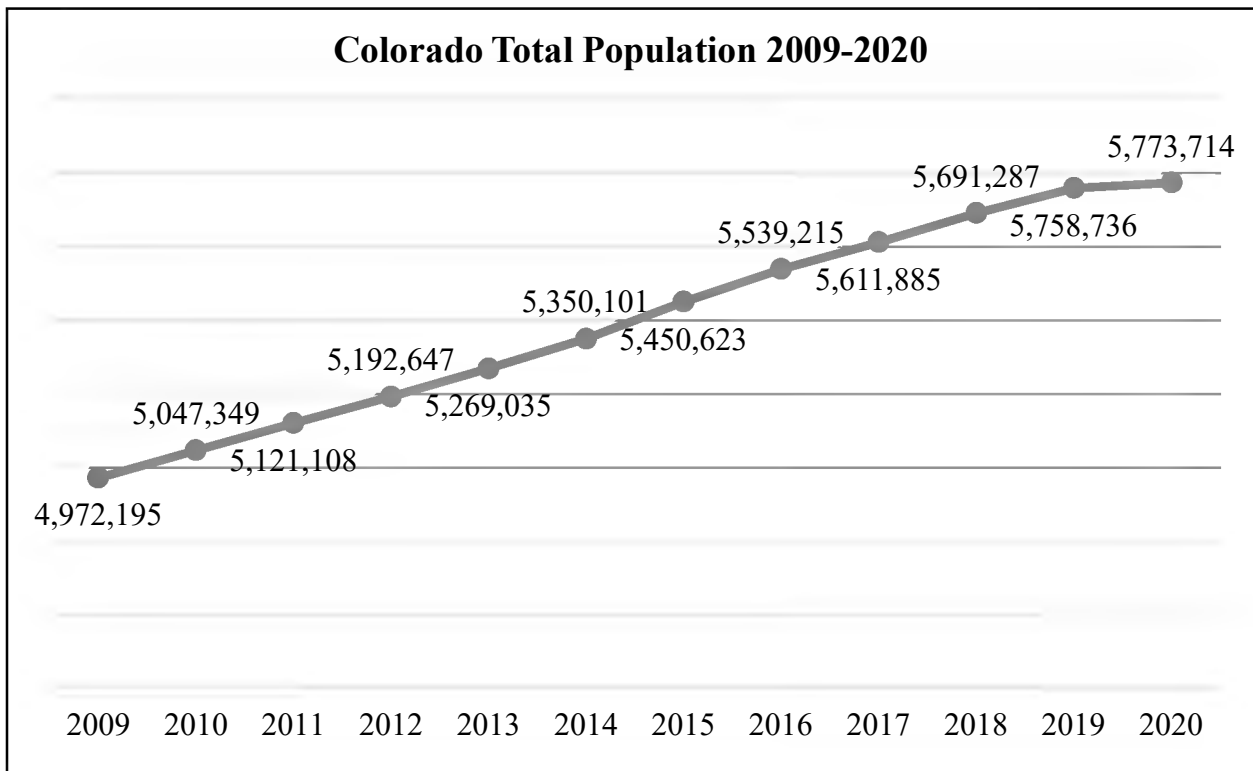
Multi-year comparisons are generally better indicators of trends. One-year fluctuations do not necessarily reflect a new trend.

Percentage comparisons may be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Percent changes found within graphs were calculated and added by RMHIDTA.

This report will cite datasets with terms such as “marijuana-related” or “tested positive for marijuana.” That does not necessarily prove that marijuana was the cause of the incident.

Throughout this report, rate per 100,000 is included to proportionately analyze various statistics. Below is Colorado’s total population from 2009 to 2020 for reference:



Section I: Traffic Fatalities & Impaired Driving

Some Findings

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013, traffic deaths where drivers tested positive for marijuana **increased 138%** while all Colorado traffic deaths **increased 29%**.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **more than doubled** from 55 in 2013 to 131 people killed in 2020.
- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, the percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths involving drivers who tested positive for marijuana **increased from 11% in 2013 to 20%** in 2020.

Definitions by Rocky Mountain HIDTA

Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUI/D): This term includes an individual under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs along with any This is an important measurement since the driver’s ability to operate a vehicle was sufficiently impaired that it brought his or her driving to the attention of law enforcement. The erratic driving and the subsequent evidence that the subject was under the influence of marijuana helps confirm the causation factor.

Marijuana-Related: Also called “marijuana mentions,” is any time marijuana shows up in the toxicology report. It could be marijuana only or marijuana with other drugs and/or alcohol.

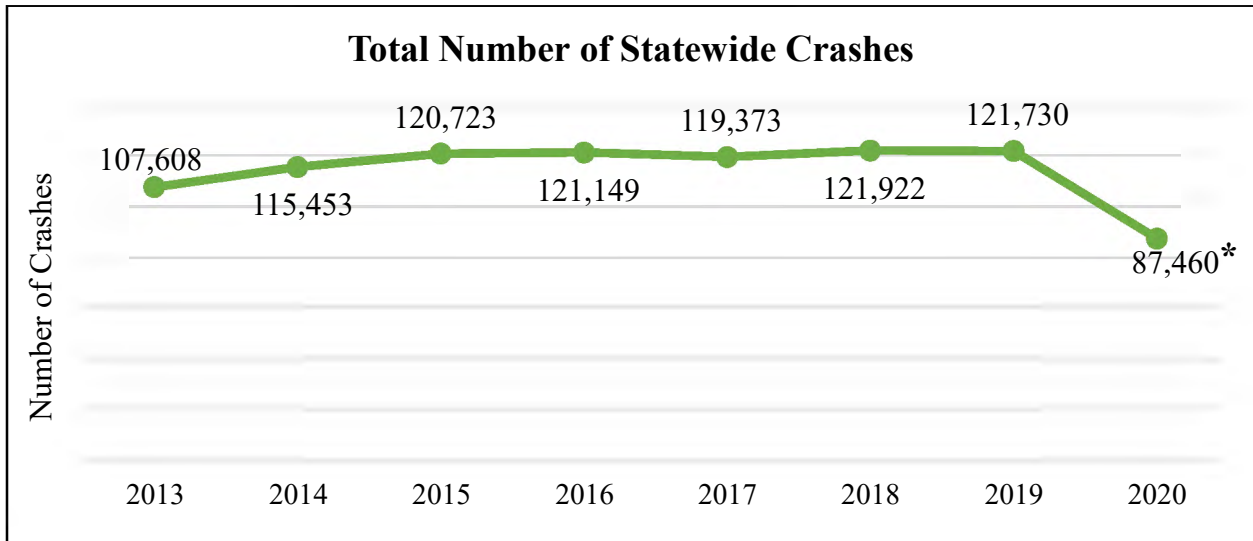
Marijuana Only: When toxicology results show marijuana and no other drugs or alcohol.

Fatalities: Any death resulting from a traffic crash involving a motor vehicle.

Drivers: An occupant who is in physical control of a transport vehicle. For an out-of-control vehicle, an occupant who was in control until control was lost.

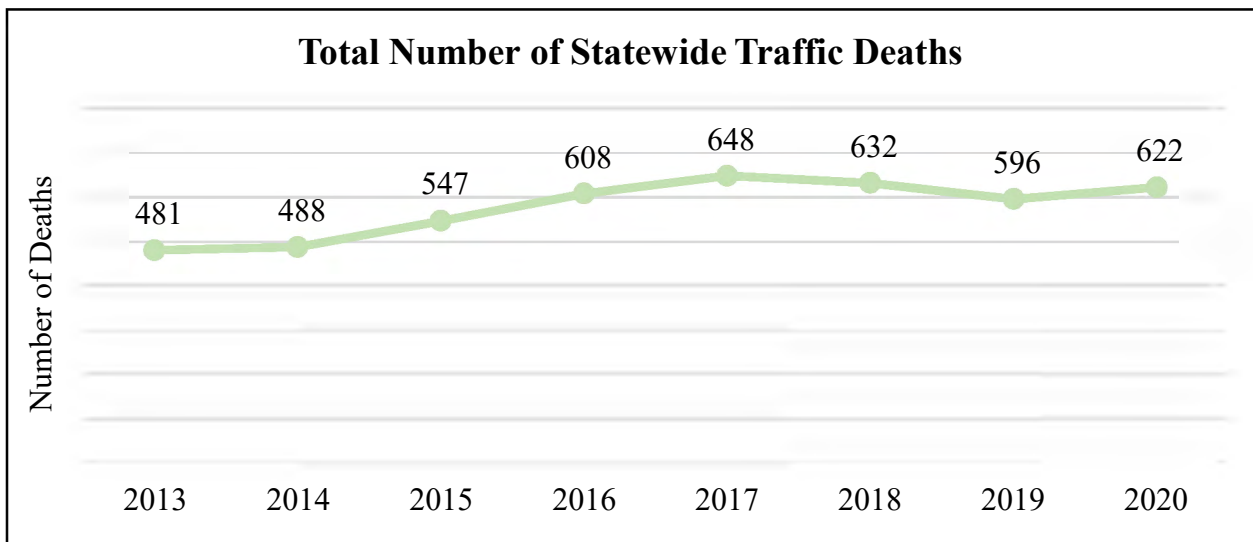
Operators: Anyone in control of their own movements such as a driver, pedestrian, or bicyclist.

Traffic Fatalities



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)

***NOTE:** Colorado Governor Polis reported a 60% reduction in vehicle traffic in March 2020 based on automatic traffic reporters. Reference: Finley, B. (2020, April 5). *Colorado sees "significant declines" in air pollution as coronavirus ramps down driving, industrial activity.* The Denver Post.



SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

- In 2020, there were a total of 622 traffic deaths. Of which:
 - 402 were drivers
 - 112 were passengers
 - 93 were pedestrians
 - 15 were bicyclists

SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2009-2011 and CDOT 2012-2020

Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana When a DRIVER Tested Positive for Marijuana

Crash Year	Total Statewide Fatalities	Fatalities with <u>Drivers</u> Testing Positive for Marijuana	Percentage Total Fatalities
2013	481	55	11.4%
2014	488	75	15.4%
2015	547	98	17.9%
2016	608	125	20.6%
2017	648	138	21.3%
2018	632	115	18.2%
2019	596	127	21.3%
2020	622	131	20.1%

NOTE: Due to changes in reporting, data from before 2013 was not included.

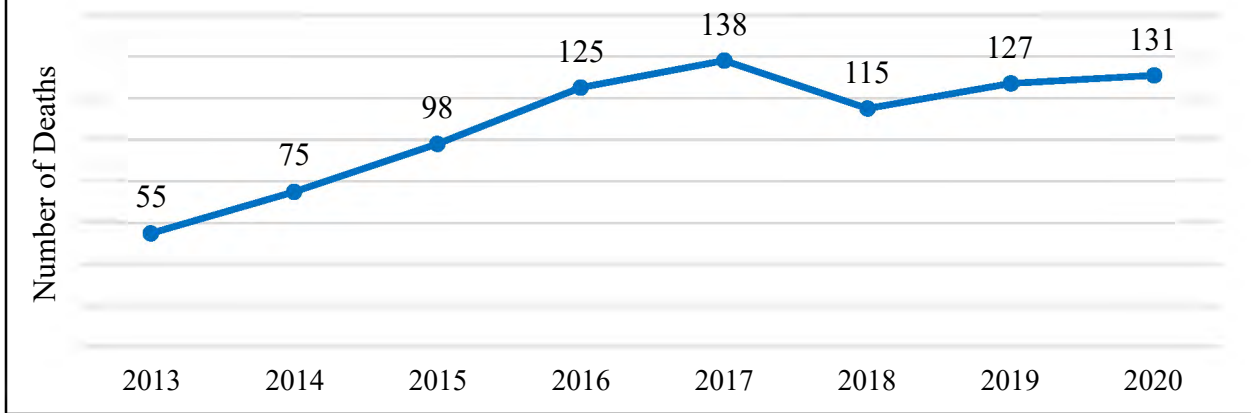
- In 2020, 131 marijuana-related traffic deaths:
 - 104 were drivers
 - 21 were passengers
 - 4 were pedestrians
 - 2 was a bicyclist

SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

NOTE: In 2020, 49% of drivers' blood was tested after being involved in a fatal crash.

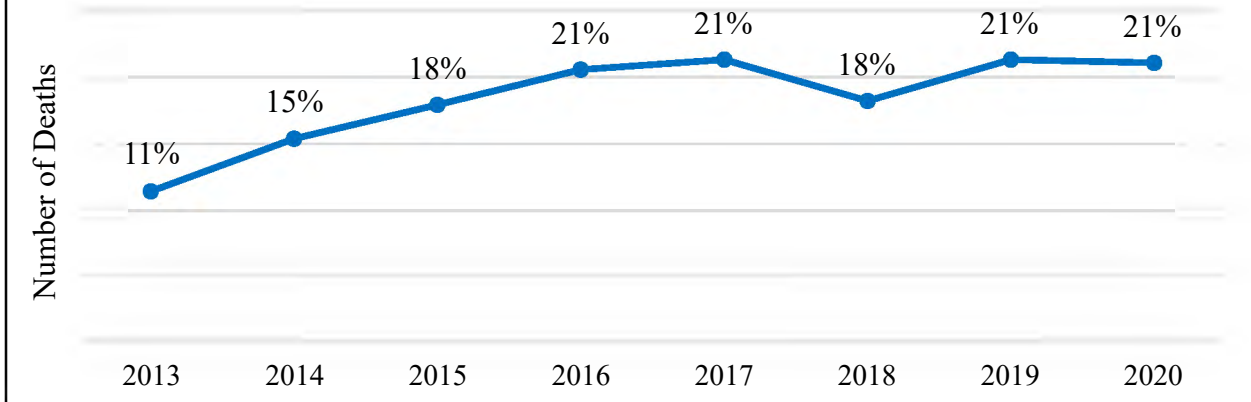
- In 2020, of the 120 drivers in fatal wrecks who tested positive for marijuana use, 117 were found to have Delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, in their blood. This would indicate use within hours according to state data. Of those, 69% were over 5 nanograms per milliliter, the state permissible inference level for driving.
 - Similar to findings from the August 2017 article by David Migoya, "Exclusive: Traffic fatalities linked to marijuana are up sharply in Colorado. Is legalization to blame?" *The Denver Post*.

Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana when a DRIVER Tested Positive for Marijuana



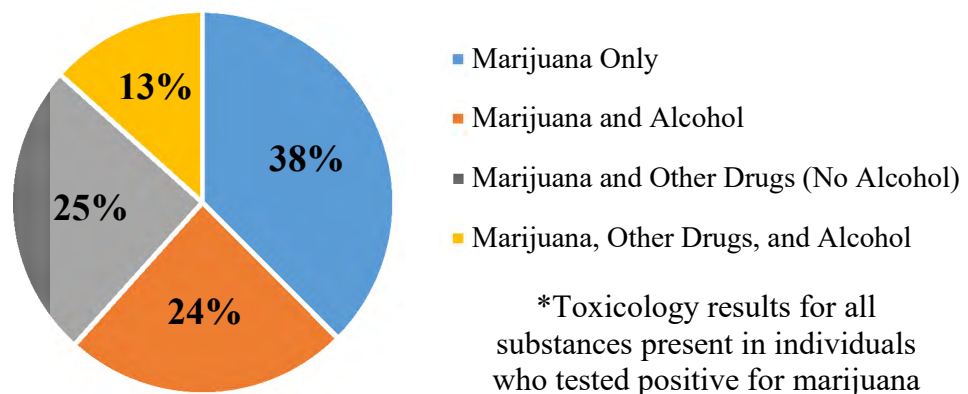
SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

Percent of All Traffic Deaths That Were Marijuana-Related where a DRIVER Tested Positive for Marijuana



SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

Drug Combinations for DRIVERS Involved in Fatal Crashes who Tested Positive for Marijuana* (2020)



*Toxicology results for all substances present in individuals who tested positive for marijuana

SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

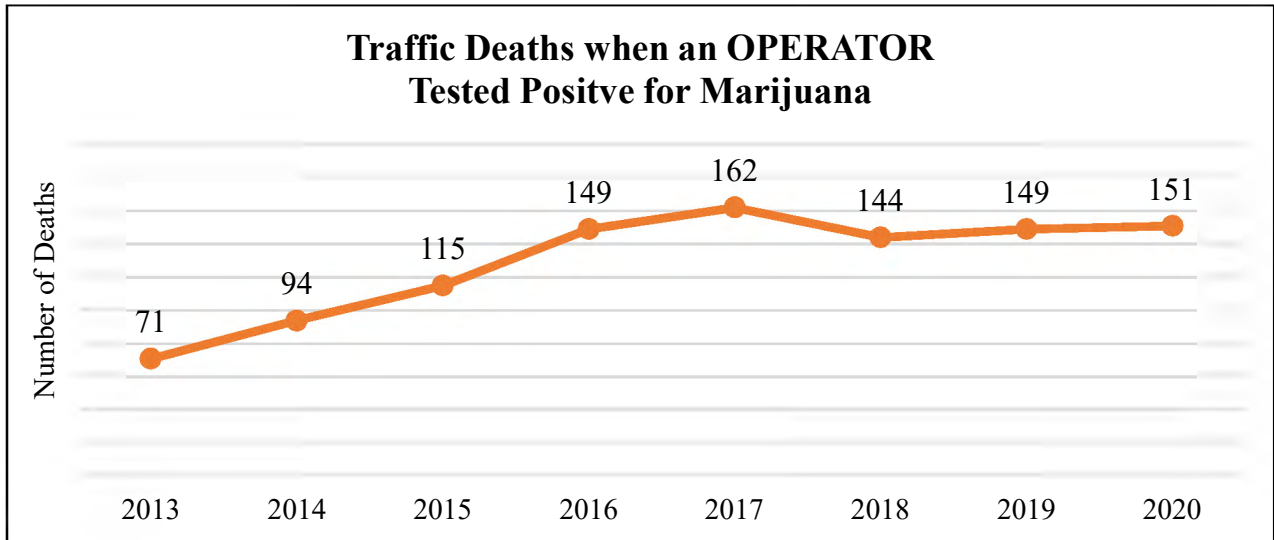
**Traffic Deaths Related to Marijuana
Where an OPERATOR Tested Positive for Marijuana**

Crash Year	Total Statewide Fatalities	Fatalities with <u>Operators</u> Testing Positive for Marijuana	Percentage Total Fatalities
2013	481	71	14.8%
2014	488	94	19.3%
2015	547	115	21.0%
2016	608	149	24.5%
2017	648	162	25.0%
2018	632	144	23.0%
2019	596	149	25.0%
2020	622	151	24.3%

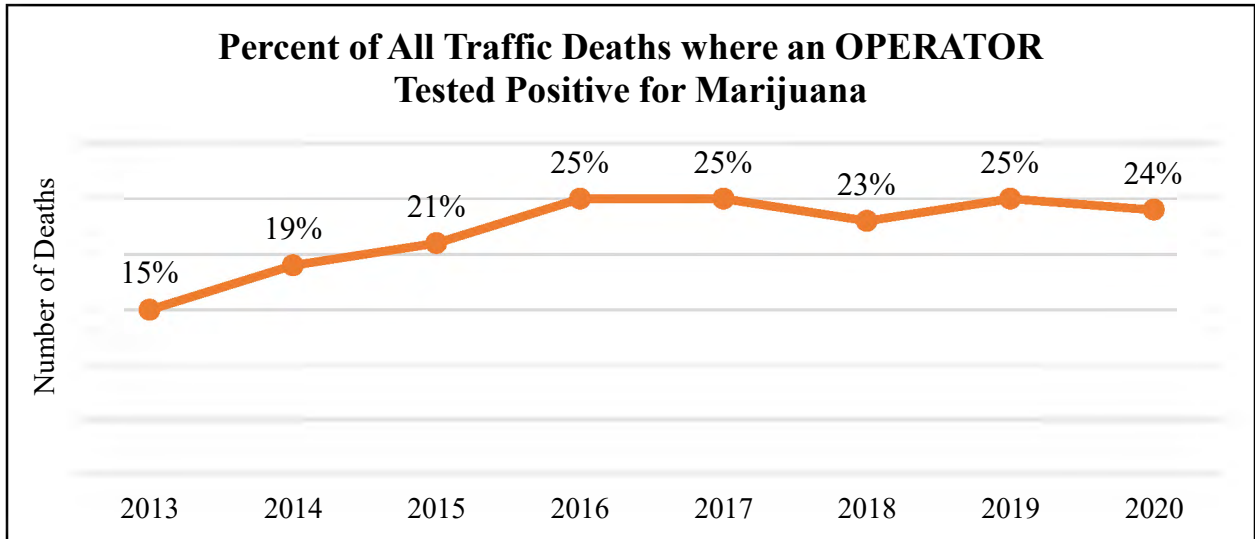
- Of the 151 marijuana-related traffic deaths:
 - 104 were drivers
 - 22 were pedestrians
 - 21 were passengers
 - 4 were bicyclists

SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

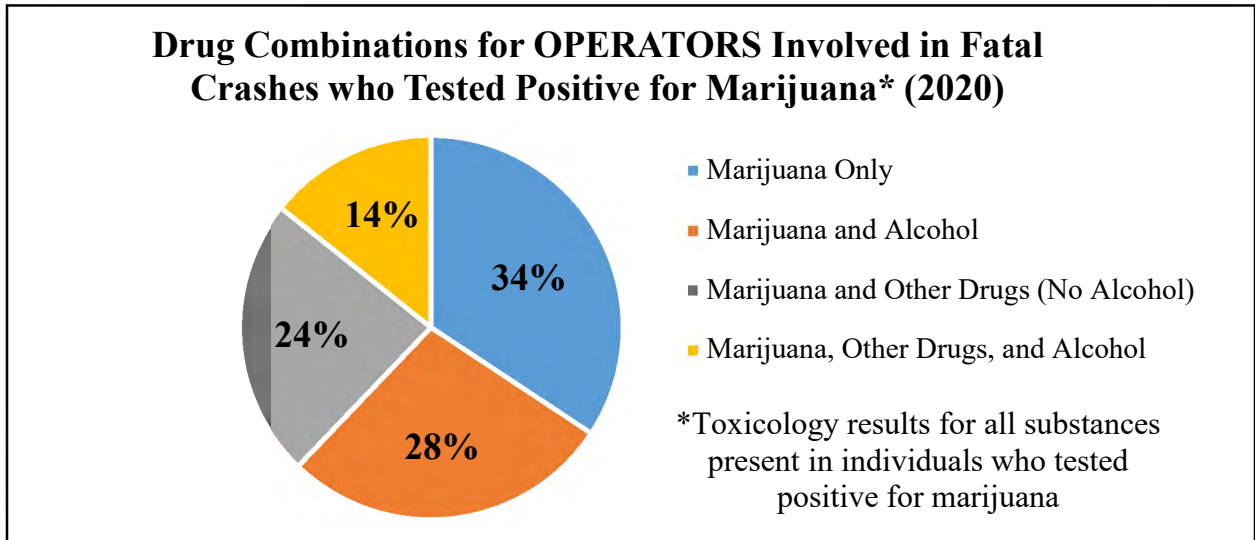
NOTE: In 2020, 51% of operators' blood was tested after being involved in a fatal crash.



SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020



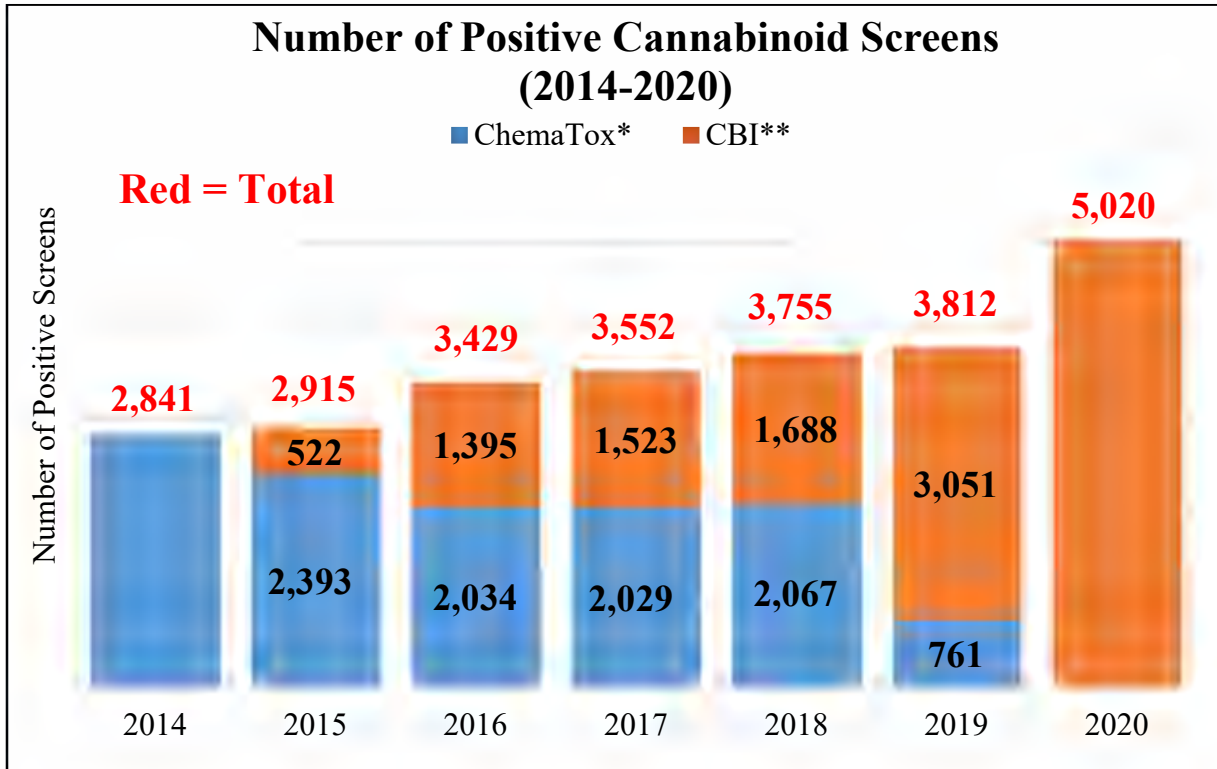
SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020



SOURCE: CDOT 2013-2020

Impaired Driving

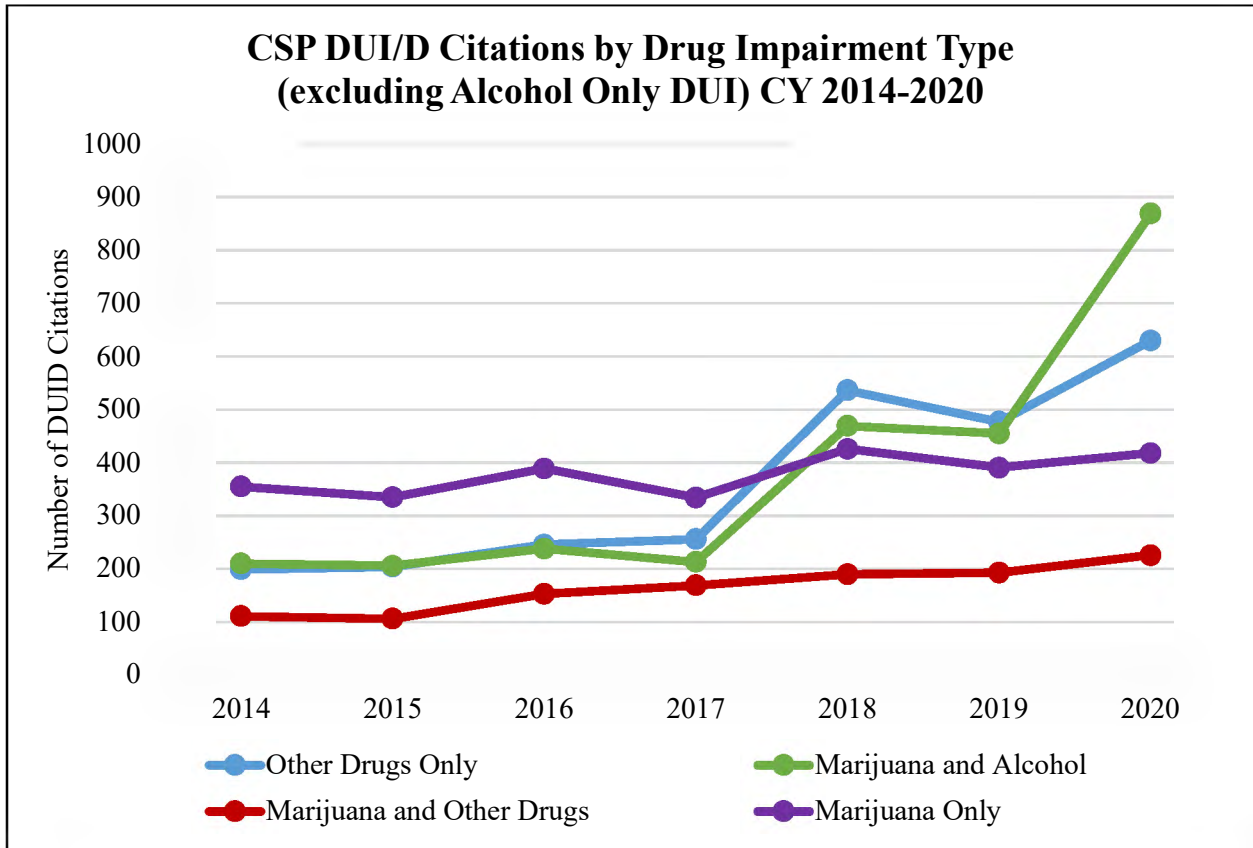
When a driver is arrested for impaired driving related to alcohol (usually 0.08 or higher blood alcohol content), typically tests for other drugs (including marijuana) are not requested since there is no additional punishment if the test comes back positive.



SOURCE: Colorado Bureau of Investigation and ChemaTox

***NOTE:** ChemaTox discontinued testing July 2019.

****NOTE:** The Colorado Bureau of Investigation began toxicology operations July 1, 2015, and became the sole agency in the state to conduct toxicology reports July 1, 2019. The vast majority of the screens are DUID submissions from Colorado law enforcement.



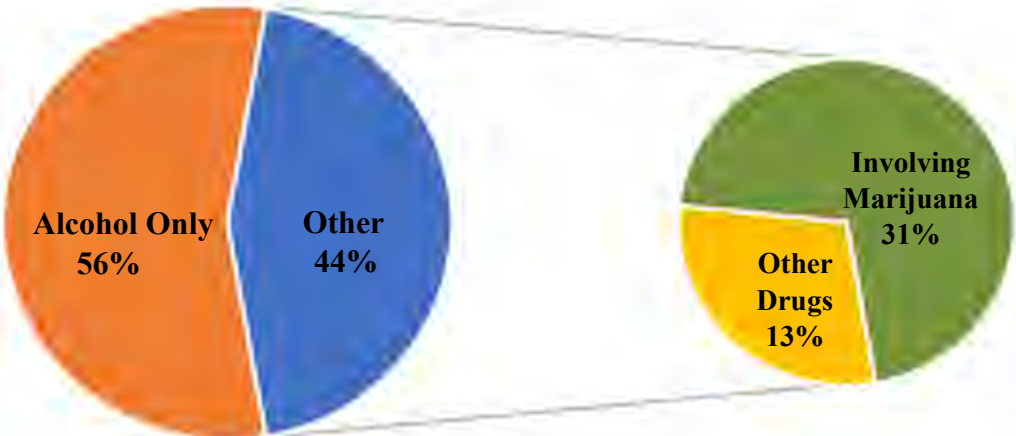
SOURCE: CSP RDW; only displaying data available as of 07/23/2021

DUI/D Citations by Drug Impairment Type							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Other Drugs	199	204	246	256	536	477	630
Marijuana and Alcohol	210	206	238	213	469	455	869
Marijuana and Other Controlled Substances	111	106	153	169	190	193	226
Marijuana Only	355	335	389	334	426	391	418
Alcohol Only	4,620	3,948	3,528	3,817	3,541	3,727	2,674
Total Marijuana Involved Citations	676	647	780	716	1,085	1,039	1,513
Total DUI/D Citations	5,495	4,799	4,554	4,789	5,162	5,245	4,817

SOURCE: CSP RDW; only displaying data available as of 07/23/2021

NOTE: “Citations in the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) Reporting Data Warehouse (RDW) are defined as one per involved person when the involved person has at least one charge as denoted in the RDW (excluding oral and written warnings), that occurred during a traffic stop unique on date, time, location road, mile point round, and driver’s license number. Impaired (DUI/D) citations were identified in the CSP RDW by the following common codes: 753, 754, 755, 765, 785, 800, 801, 802, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 812, 813, 814, 815, 820, 821, or MPC.”
-Colorado State Patrol

Colorado State Patrol DUI/D Citations CY 2020



SOURCE: CSP RDW; only displaying data available as of 07/23/20210

Impaired Driving Information

THC Positive Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes in Washington

In Washington, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety studied fatal crashes from 2008 to 2017 to determine the impact of the legalization of recreational marijuana. The percentage of drivers involved in a fatal crash was 88% from 2008 to 2017 compared to only 29% of drivers involved in non-fatal crashes. Of the fatal crashes, an average of 8.8% of drivers were THC-positive from 2008 to 2012. Then after recreational marijuana was legalized, the average increased to 18% of drivers testing positive for THC from 2013 to 2017. The highest level was reached in 2017 with 21% of drivers testing positive for THC that were involved in a fatal crash.

Source: Tefft, B.C. & Arnold, L.S. (2020). *Cannabis Use Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes in Washington State Before and After Legalization* (Research Brief). Washington, D.C.: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

Analysis of the Impact of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Traffic Fatalities in Colorado and Washington

In 2019, researchers examined the impact of recreational marijuana legalization on traffic fatalities in Washington and Colorado. Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) from 2000 to 2016 was analyzed to compare fatal crashes where at least the driver tested positive for marijuana with the alcohol related cases. The initial findings were that marijuana-related deaths increased in Washington and Colorado compared to the rest of the country after marijuana was legalized in these two states in 2012. The rate of increase was significantly faster than the other states as well. In their final analysis, the authors were unable to determine whether the legalization of recreational marijuana alone led to the large increase in traffic fatalities in the two states.

Their conclusion states that in Colorado, “the amount of marijuana sold in recreational stores [grew] dramatically, [...] from 36,031 pounds in 2014 to 102,871 pounds in 2016. However, it is difficult to discern how much of this growth in legal recreational weed came at the expense of sales in black market or medical marijuana. Indeed, recreational marijuana can be viewed as a close substitute to black market or medical marijuana, with differences in price, quality, and ease of access. The relatively small effects we estimate are consistent with crowding-out, and could explain why we do not observe spillover effects on alcohol-related traffic accidents as other studies have found (Anderson, Hansen, and Rees 2013). Furthermore, Colorado has recently allowed consumption of marijuana in public spaces. This might increase the potential for negative externalities of recreational marijuana relative to medical marijuana. Despite that concern, we find limited overall evidence the fatalities are significantly increasing in Colorado and Washington following the legalization of recreational marijuana” (Hansen et al, 2019).

Source: Hansen, B., Miller, K., and Weber, C. (2019). *Early evidence on recreational marijuana legalization and traffic fatalities*. *Economic Inquiry*, 58(2), 547-568.

Relationship between Recreational Marijuana and Alcohol-Related Behaviors in Colorado

Some theorized that legalizing recreational marijuana would decrease the levels of alcohol consumption, while others believed that there was a positive relationship between the two. These conflicting hypotheses have generated further interest on how the legalization of recreational

marijuana impacted alcohol-related behavior in states like Colorado. Analysis of the tax revenue from alcohol sales in Colorado determined an increase in liquor tax revenue related to alcohol and alcohol-related motor vehicle crash fatalities after the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado. Alcohol-related crash fatalities increased by nearly two and a half fatalities per month within the state. The tax revenue increase of almost \$200,000 per month cannot definitively be linked to any changes of alcohol-related societal problems.

Source: Chamlin, M. (2021). *An examination of the unintended consequences of the legalization of recreational marijuana on alcohol-related behaviors*. Journal of Crime and Justice, 1-11

DUI Numbers Increase During Pandemic

During the height of the early stages of the pandemic from January to April 2020, DUI related deaths doubled compared to 2019 according to the Colorado State Patrol. In addition, alcohol and marijuana-related crashes increased by 32 percent during the same timeframe. The cause of this increase was unknown especially during the stay-at-home order that closed many bars. Some hypothesized that the drivers under the influence were able to drive at higher speeds with less cars on the road, leading to the increase in crashes.

Source: Grewe, L. (2020, May 26). *Despite pandemic, DUI numbers up significantly in 2020*. KKTV.

Traffic Deaths Increase Even with Less Miles Travelled

During the first half of 2020, the number of total miles travelled decreased by 17 percent compared to the first half of 2019. Despite this, the traffic deaths increased by one percent from 256 to 259 deaths. Furthermore, this increase was significant as the fatality rate increased by 20 percent due to the large decrease in miles travelled. This trend was confirmed from analysis in 22 other states.

Source: Minor, N. (2020, September 2). *Colorado's roads are emptier, but deadlier so far this year*. CPR News.

Section II: Marijuana Use

Some Findings

Since recreational marijuana was legalized in 2013:

- Past month marijuana use for ages 12 and older **increased 26%** and is **61% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month adult marijuana use (ages 18 and older) **increased 20%** and is **62% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month college age marijuana (ages 18-25) use **increased 10%** and is **53% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **3rd** in the nation.
- Past month youth marijuana (ages 12-17) use **decreased 22%** and is **39% higher** than the national average, currently ranked **7th** in the nation.

Data Consideration

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) data is collected in the odd years and released in even years. For this reason, HKCS data is not included in this report. Please refer to Volume 7 for the most recent numbers.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) data is collected in the odd years and released in even years. For this reason, YRBSS data is not included in this report. Please refer to Volume 7 for the most recent numbers.

National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) data is averaged between two years for a more accurate representation. The most recent data averaged 2018 and 2019.

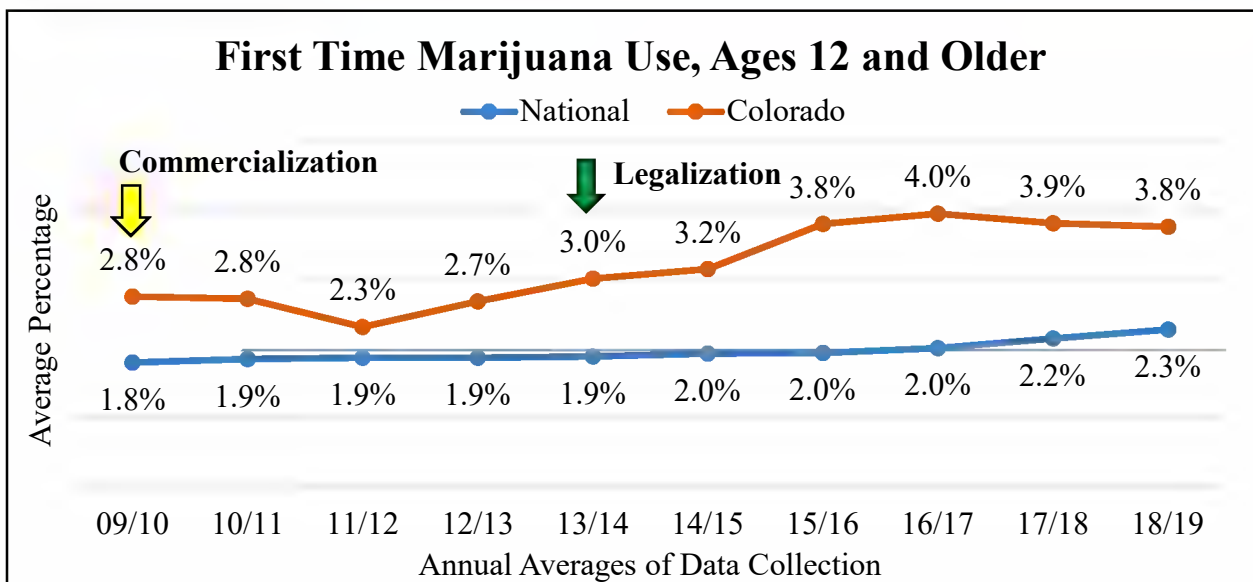
National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Data

Colorado Averages Compared to National Averages		
For Ages 12 and Older:	Colorado	US
Marijuana Past Month Use	17.4%	10.8%
Perceptions of Risk for Smoking Marijuana	17.7%	24.4%
Illicit Drug Use Other than Marijuana Past Month	4.7%	3.3%
Alcohol Past Month Use	60.0%	50.9%
Cigarette Past Month Use	16.3%	16.9%
Perceptions of Risk for Smoking Cigarettes	72.5%	71.5%

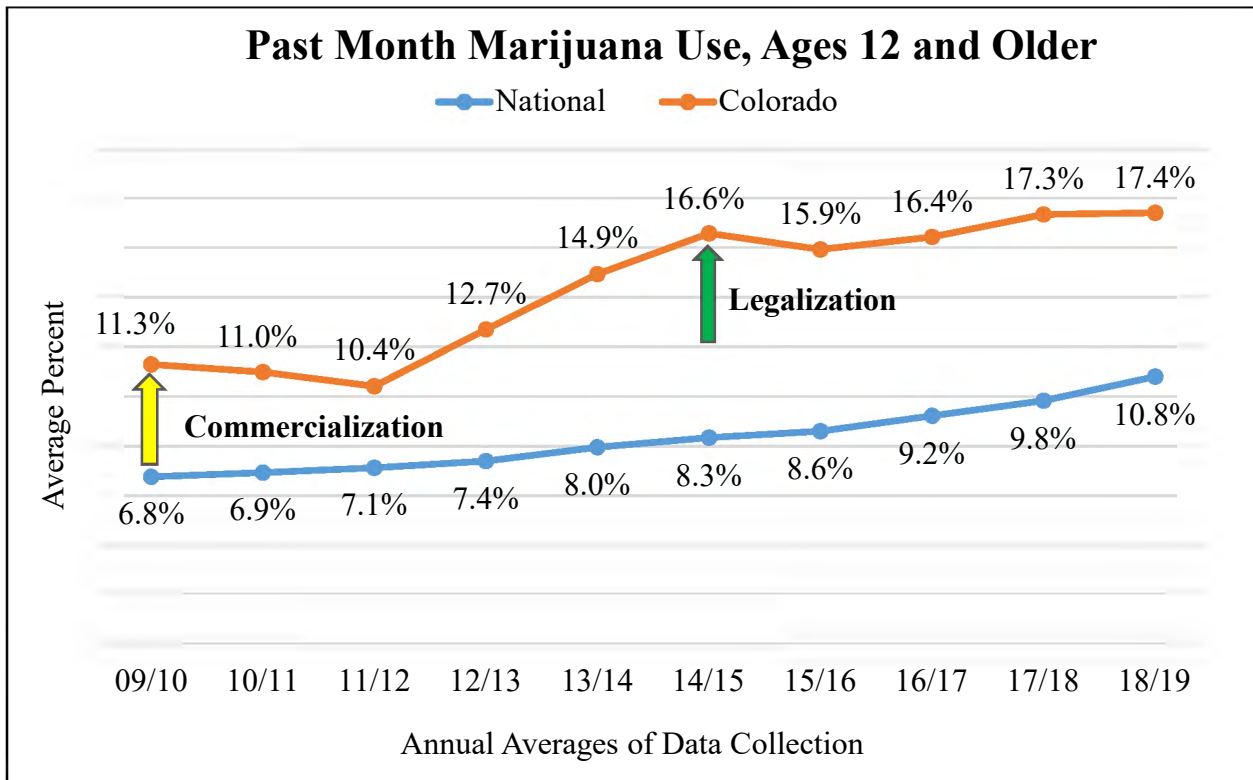
SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019

Marijuana First Time Use			
Age	Colorado %	Colorado U.S. Ranking	National %
12 years +	3.8%	3 rd	2.3%
12 – 17	8.0%	4 th	5.7%
18 years +	2.9%	5 th	1.7%
18 – 25	12.5%	6 th	8.4%
26+	1.2%	6 th	0.7%

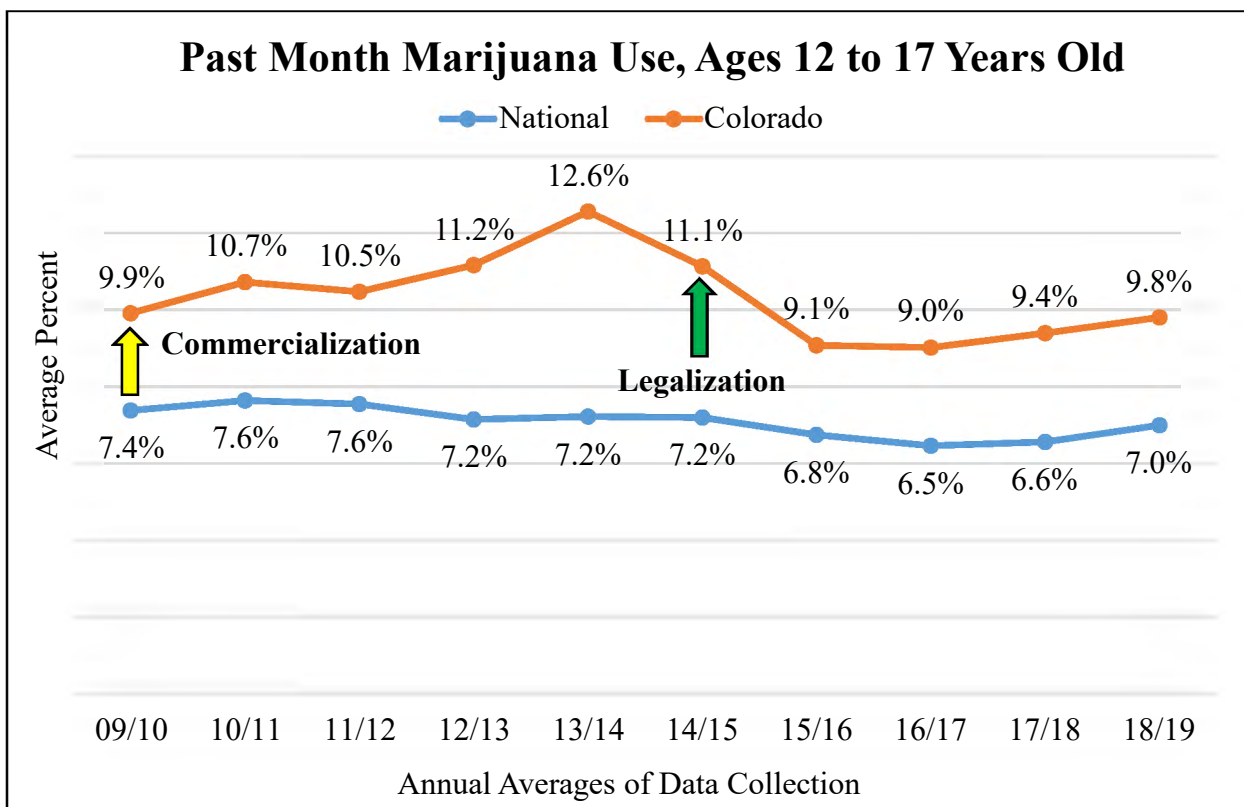
SOURCE: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019



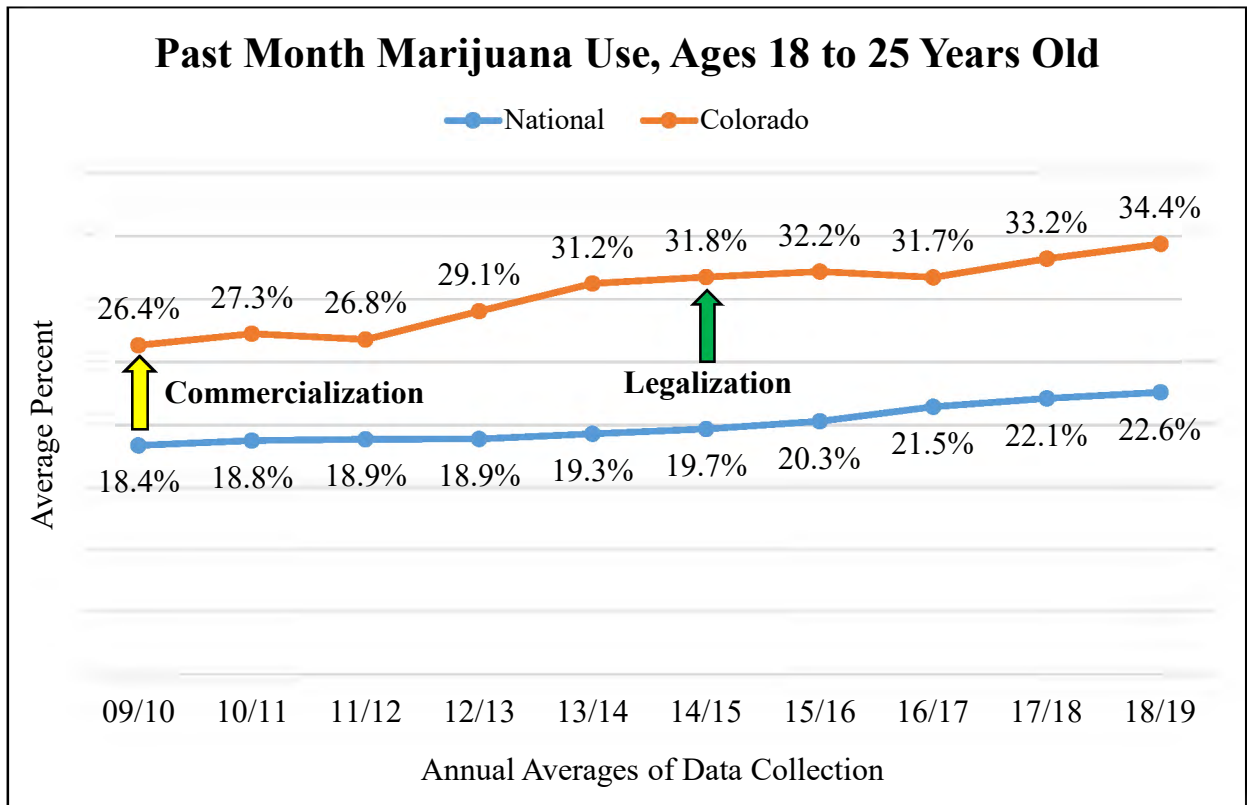
SOURCE: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019



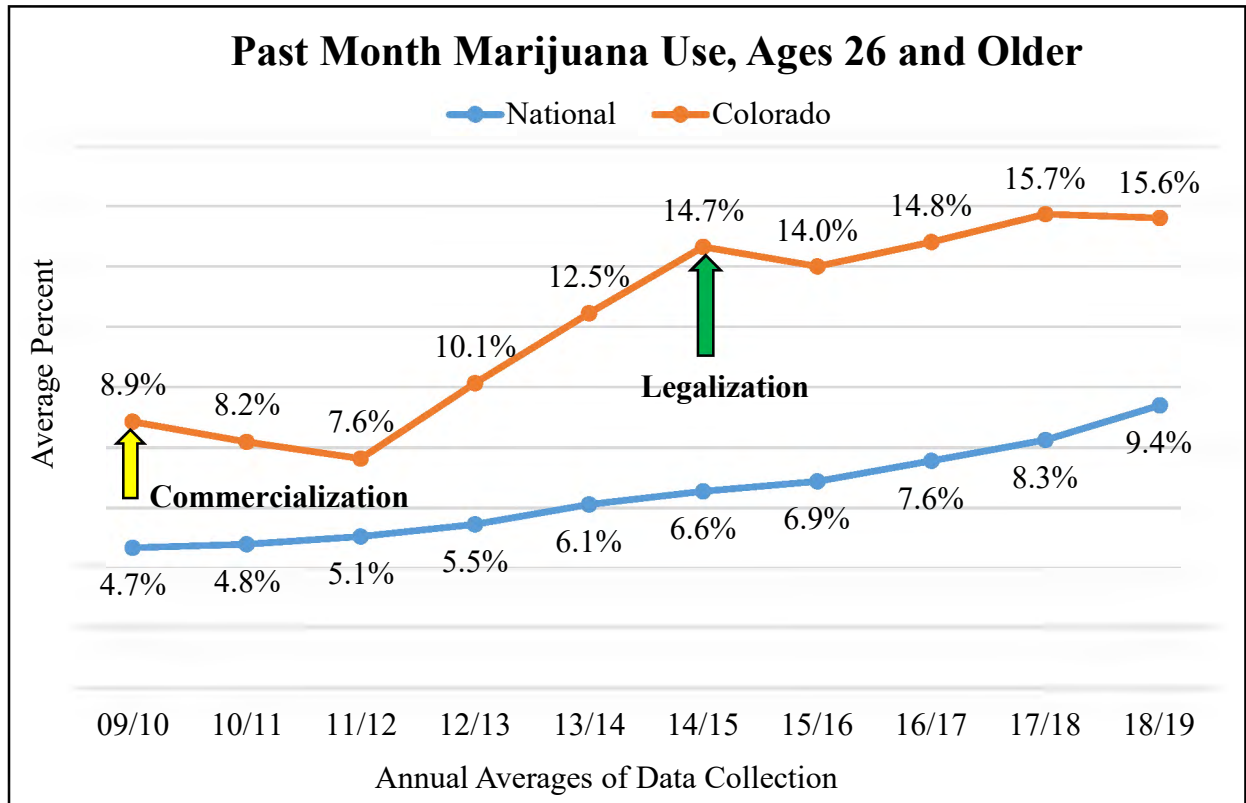
Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019



Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019

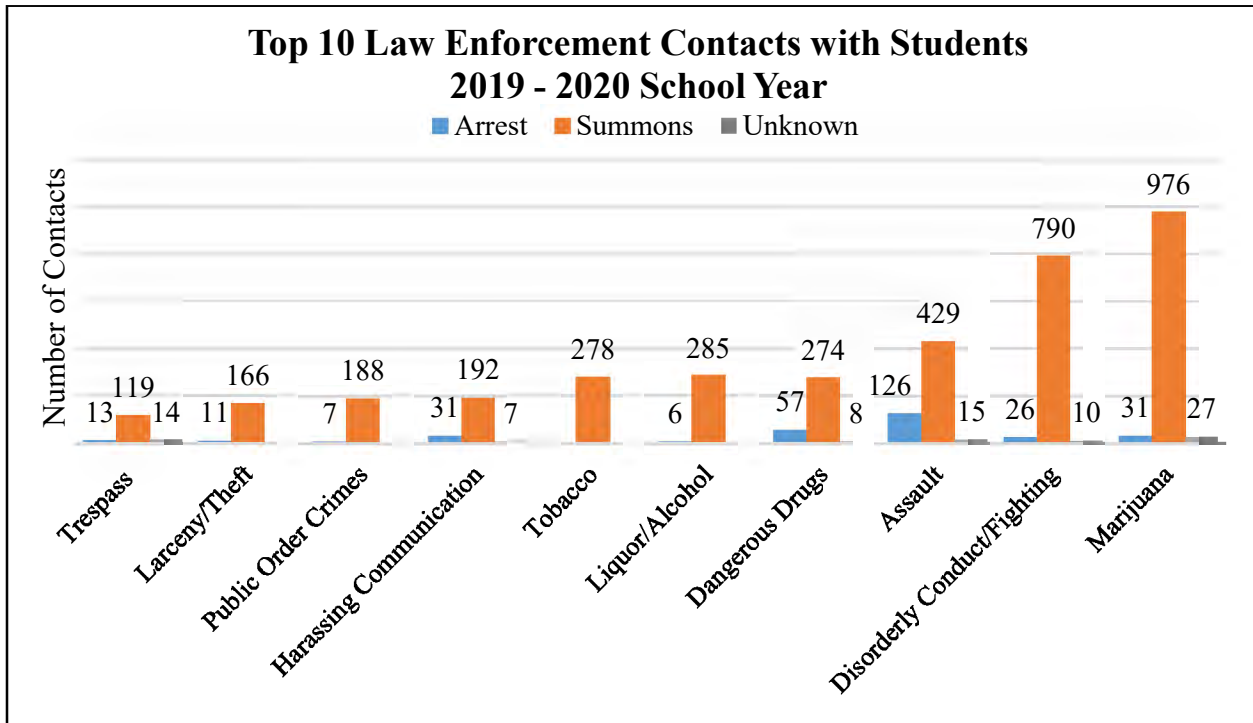


Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019



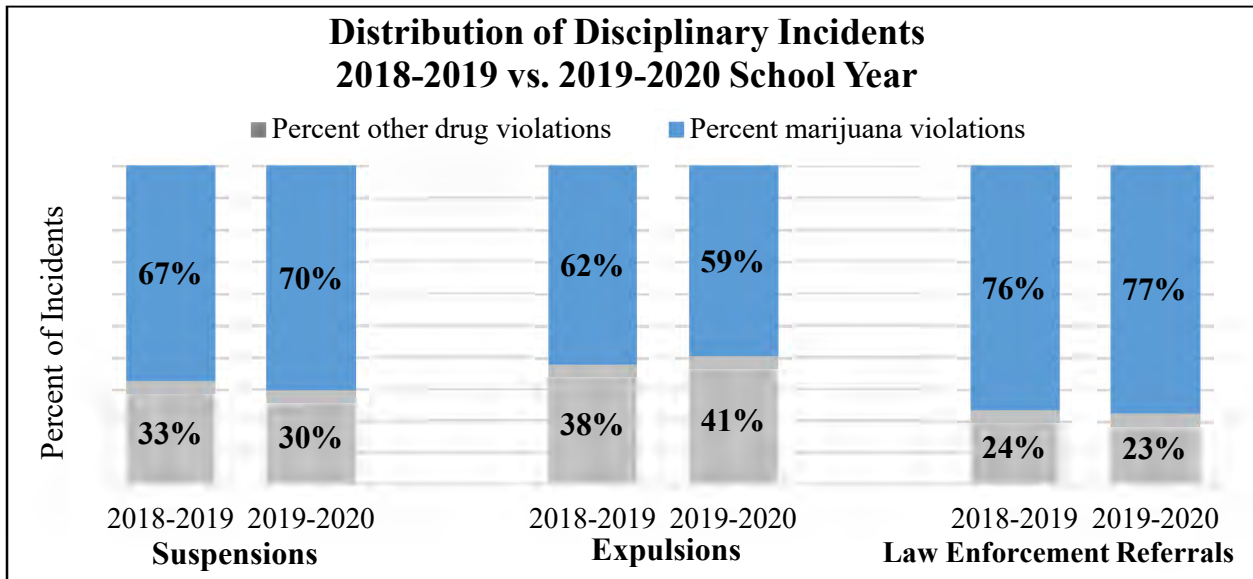
Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2018 and 2019

Marijuana in Schools



SOURCE: Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

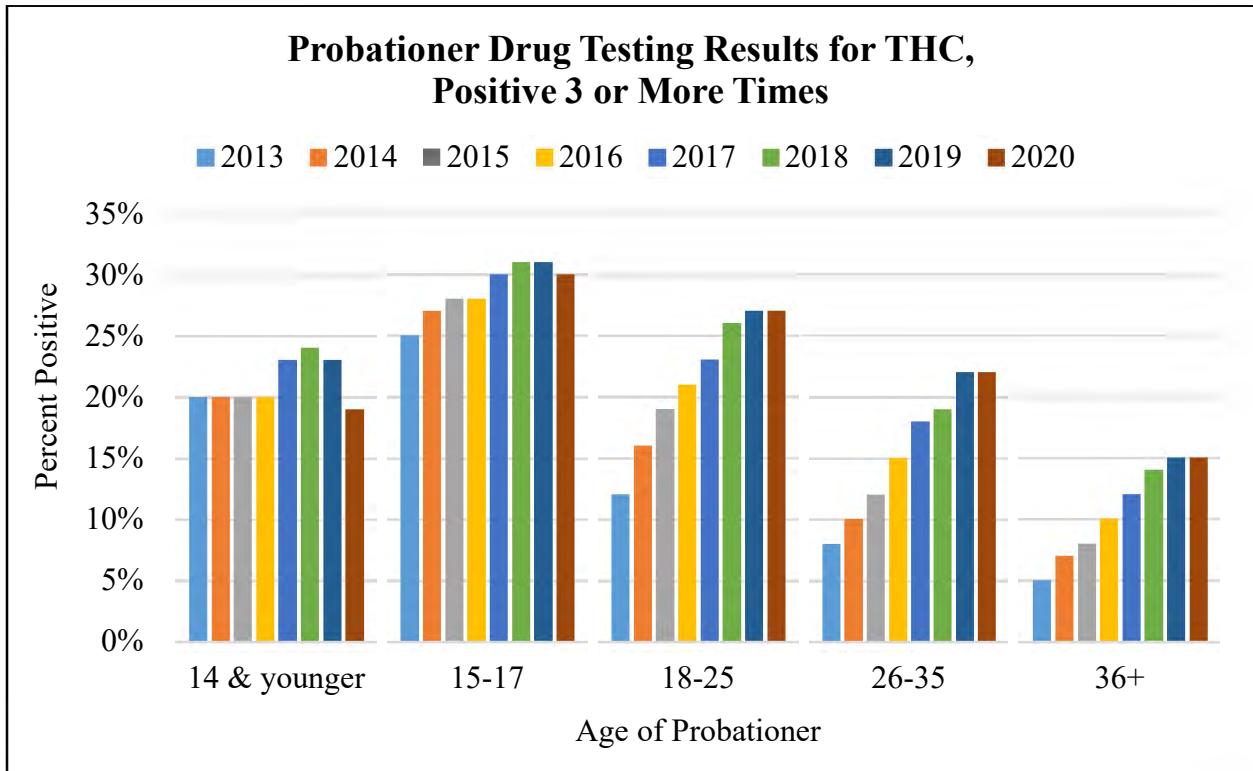
NOTE: The number of contacts from the 2019 to 2020 school year may not represent a complete school year due to the beginning of lockdowns associated with COVID-19 in March 2020.



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Education

NOTE: Law Enforcement Referrals may or may not have been in addition to another reported action taken (suspension, expulsion, or other).

Probationer Marijuana Use



SOURCE: Colorado State Judicial Branch, Division of Probation Services

NOTE: Data reflects drug test results for probationers required to undergo drug testing. This does not reflect all probationers in Colorado. Probationers who have a medical marijuana card are not prohibited from using marijuana while on probation. It is possible that some positive results may come from probationers using marijuana for medical reasons.

Marijuana Use Information

Analysis of Marijuana Use by College Students from 2008 to 2018

One of the largest questions after legalizing recreational marijuana was the impact on young adults across the country. A long-term study was created to compare marijuana use in states that passed recreational marijuana legalization (RML) compared to non-RML states. Researchers chose several post-secondary institutions and students between 18 to 26 years old were surveyed across ten academic years in 48 states. This resulted in seven RML states with nearly 235,000 participants from 135 institutions compared to 41 non-RML states with almost 600,000 students from 454 institutions.

The results indicated that “the 30-day prevalence of marijuana use increased more among college students exposed to RML relative to students attending college in non-RML states and students in RML states prior to legalization. These findings are generally consistent with those from prior studies of Oregon and Washington college students, but are a considerable extension, given that they are based on 135 institutions in seven RML states instead of one to two institutions in a single RML state. The mounting evidence for increases in college students’ marijuana use that has coincided with RML is all the more interesting in the context of the more mixed results regarding such changes among adolescents. For many young adults, the transition to college involves sudden declines in parental monitoring, exposure to older peer groups and a culture of heavy drinking and other substance use. Although heavy drinking by college students has declined nation-wide in recent years, the prevalence of marijuana use has increased” (Bae et al, 2021). Additionally, the increases in RML states were more pronounced in women, participants 21 years and older, and students living off-campus.

Source: Bae, H. and Kerr, D. (2021). *Marijuana use trends among college students in states with and without legalization of recreational use: initial and longer-term changes from 2008 to 2018*. *Addiction*, 115(6), 1115-1124.

Relationship between Neighborhood Disorder, Marijuana Use, and Life Expectancy for Young Men Involved in the Criminal Justice System

Researchers surveyed over 1,200 young males from the Crossroads study that are involved in the justice system to examine their perception of risk-taking relative to their expectations on life expectancy. In the study, the measurements were neighborhood disorder, life expectancy, substance use, offending, and risky sexual behavior. Specific to marijuana use, the results indicated that the young men living in more disordered neighborhoods used marijuana more frequently, different findings than binge drinking and cigarette use. No causal relationship was determined between life expectancy and marijuana use.

The authors stated in the conclusion, “a possible explanation for this finding is that adolescents do not perceive using marijuana as risky or harmful. Findings from the National Institute on Drug Abuse 2013 Monitoring the Future survey indicate that while cigarette use and alcohol use have steadily declined in recent years, rates of marijuana use have remained consistently high, in large part due to adolescents’ attitudes toward marijuana risks. Only 20.6% of 12th graders perceived occasional marijuana use as harmful and only 44.1% considered daily use to be detrimental (Johnston et al., 2014). If youth tend not to view marijuana as being harmful in the long run, then

it is likely that decisions to use marijuana are not informed by youths' expectations for their futures. That is, even among adolescents who expect long lives, they may be just as likely as those with short life expectancies to engage in marijuana use because they may not perceive it as a risky behavior" (Kan et al, 2020).

Source: Kan, E., Peniche, M., Steinberg, L., Knowles, A., Frick, P., and Cauffman, E. (2020). *Neighborhood disorder and risk-taking among justice-involved youth—the mediating role of life expectancy*. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 31(2), 282-298.

Examining the Validity of the Marijuana Gateway Hypothesis

Proposed during the 1970s, the marijuana gateway hypothesis was created to explain the escalation of risk from the use of tobacco and alcohol to marijuana, then to harder drugs. As a result of this hypothesis, marijuana use was harshly punished throughout the country even to today with many states legalizing recreational and medical marijuana. At this point, there has been a lack of research supporting the causal relationship between marijuana use and other drugs. The researchers in this study focused on further examining the relationship to determine the validity of the marijuana gateway hypothesis. While those who use marijuana before 21 were 157 times more likely to engage in subsequent hard drug use, most marijuana users never escalate to hard drug use. "Some studies have found moderate estimates wherein approximately 29% of marijuana users continue on to harder drug use" (Jorgensen and Wells, 2021). They state there must be a distinction between chronic users with more occasional users when examining the likelihood of escalating to harder drugs.

Data was gathered and analyzed from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health. The results showed a meaningful association between heavy marijuana use and light illicit drug use. "Considering the findings from all 18 tests together, it can be concluded that the hypothesis that marijuana is a gateway drug is unsupported. Summarily, if marijuana "really" is a gateway drug we would expect to see stronger and more consistent causal gateway effects" (Jorgensen and Wells, 2021). Additionally, the conclusion stated that if marijuana was to be considered a gateway drug that necessitates harsh punishments, the same would be needed for tobacco and alcohol.

Source: Jorgensen, C. and Wells, J. (2021). *Is marijuana really a gateway drug? A nationally representative test of the marijuana gateway hypothesis using a propensity score matching design*. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 17(3).

Changes in Marijuana Use from 2005 to 2018 across the United States

The study compares marijuana use by adults from 2005 to 2011 (pre-recreational marijuana legalization) to 2012 to 2018 (post-recreational marijuana legalization). Data was utilized from the US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) from 2005 to 2018 across the country. While lifetime marijuana use and first use before the age of 18 was fairly consistent over the 14 years, there was a sizable increase in past-year marijuana use. This use was higher and more common for younger people, males, participants below the poverty line, non-Hispanic blacks. Despite this, the increase in past-year use increased across all demographics including education, race, gender, and income.

Source: Mitchell, W., Bhatia, R., and Zebardast, N. (2020). *Retrospective cross-sectional analysis of the changes in marijuana use in the USA, 2005–2018*. *BMJ Open*, 1-6.

Section III: Public Health

Some Findings

- Marijuana *only* exposures **increased 185%** from 2013 when recreational marijuana was legalized compared to 2020.
- Treatment for marijuana use for all ages **decreased 34%** from 2013 to 2020.
- The percent of suicide incidents in which toxicology results were positive for marijuana has **increased** from **14%** in 2013 to **29%** in 2020.

Definitions by Rocky Mountain HIDTA

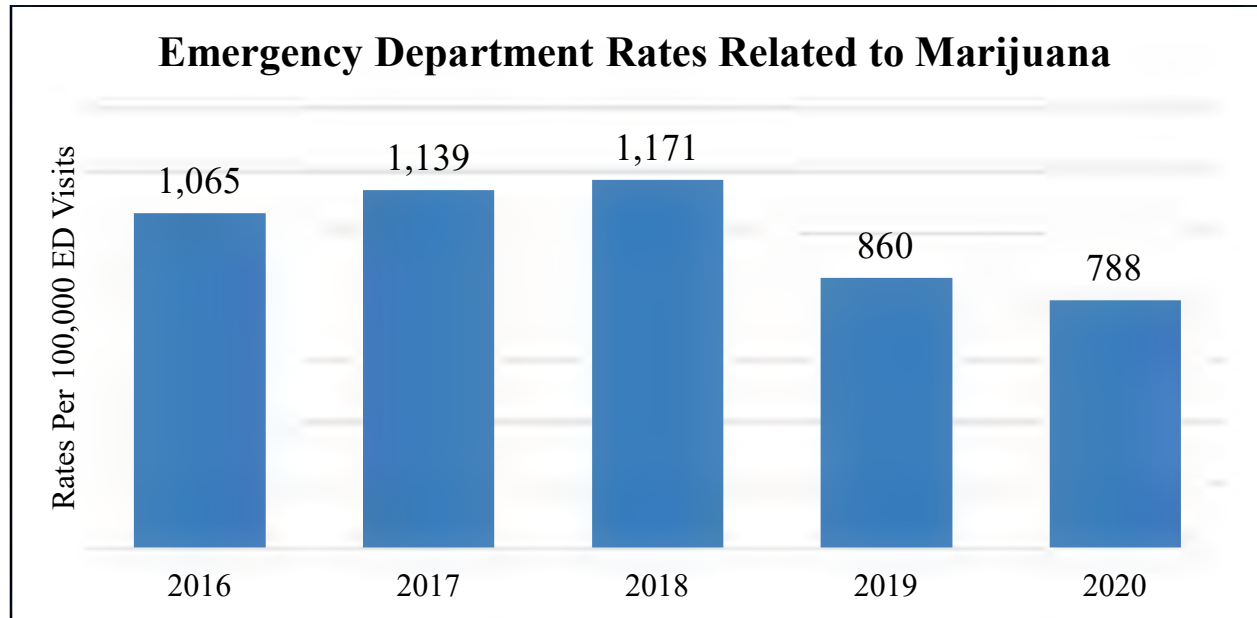
Marijuana-Related: Also referred to as “marijuana mentions.” Data could be obtained from lab tests, patient self-admission or some other form of validation obtained by the provider. Being marijuana-related does not necessarily prove marijuana was the cause of the emergency department admission or hospitalization.

International Classification of Disease (ICD): A medical coding system used to classify diseases and related health problems.

**In 2015, ICD-10 (the tenth modification) was implemented in place of ICD-9. Although ICD-10 will allow for better analysis of disease patterns and treatment outcomes for the advancement of medical care, comparison of trends before and after the conversion can be made difficult and/or impossible. The number of codes increased from approximately 13,600 codes to approximately 69,000 codes. For this reason, emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to marijuana use were restricted to 2016 to 2020 in this report.

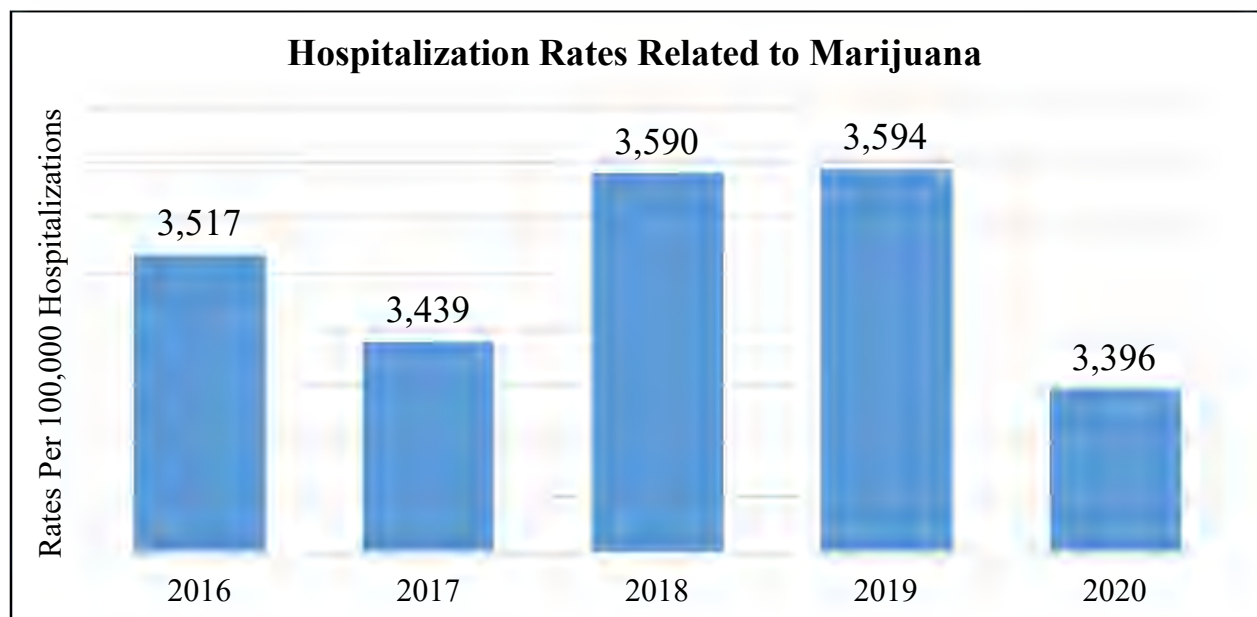
For more information regarding public health research gaps and data quality issues, please visit <https://marijuanahealthinfo.colorado.gov/research-gaps>.

Emergency Department Data



SOURCE: Emergency Department Discharge Dataset, as analyzed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; 2016-2020

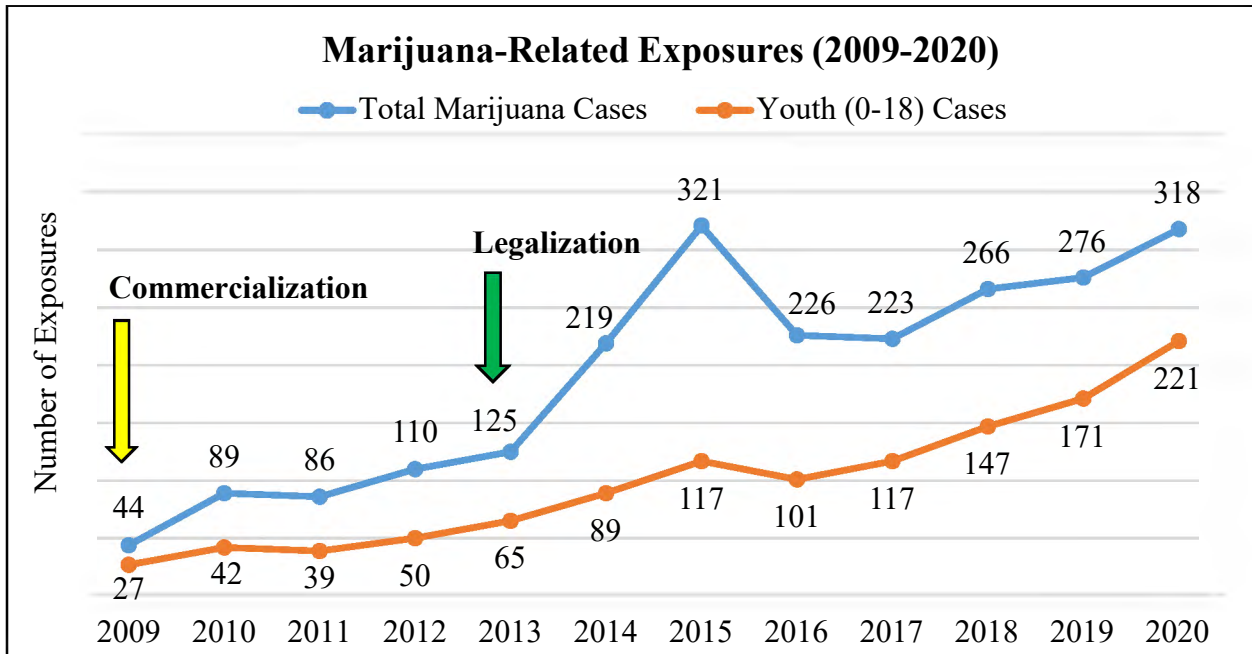
NOTE: Due to changes in the way the hospitalizations and emergency department visits data were coded, data before 2015 was not included for trend analysis.



SOURCE: Emergency Department Discharge Dataset, as analyzed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; 2016-2020

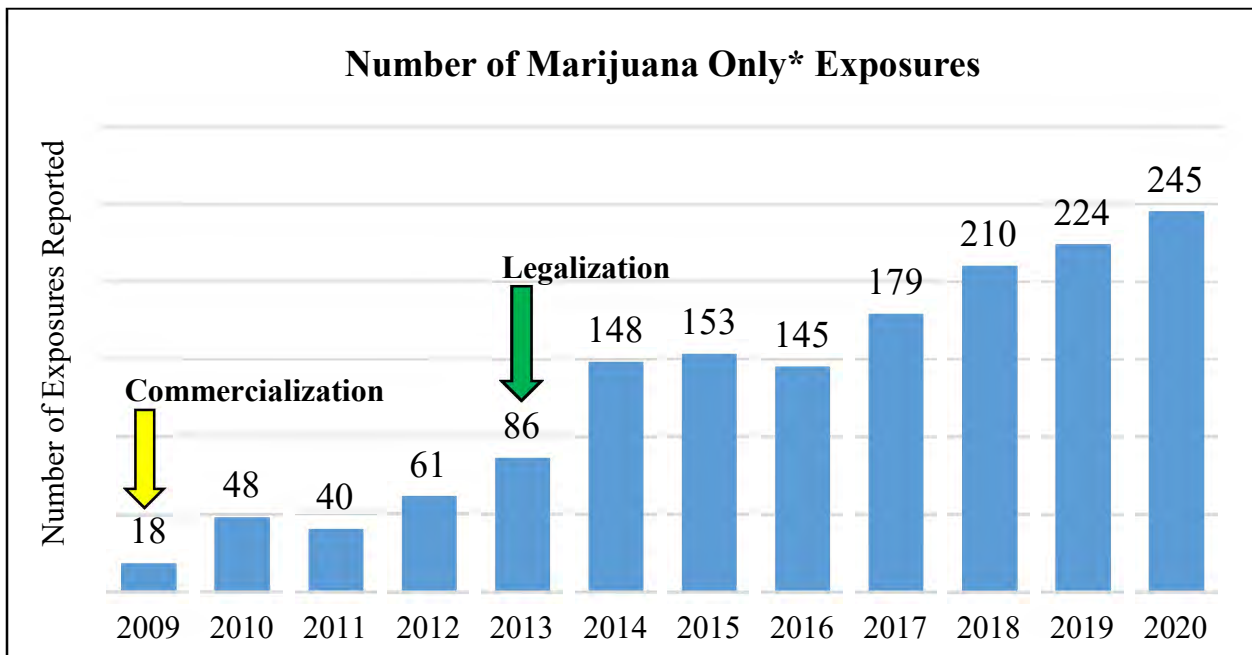
NOTE: Due to changes in the way the hospitalizations and emergency department visits data were coded, data before 2015 was not included for trend analysis.

Poison Control/Marijuana Exposure Data



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

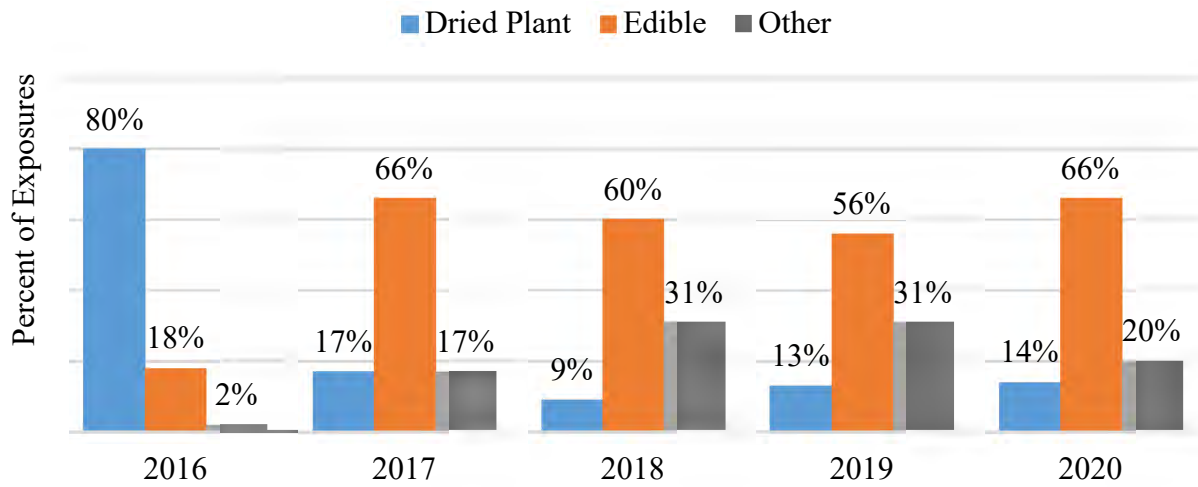
NOTE: Total marijuana-related exposure cases include unknown ages.



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

***NOTE:** Marijuana was the only substance referenced in the call to the poison and drug center.

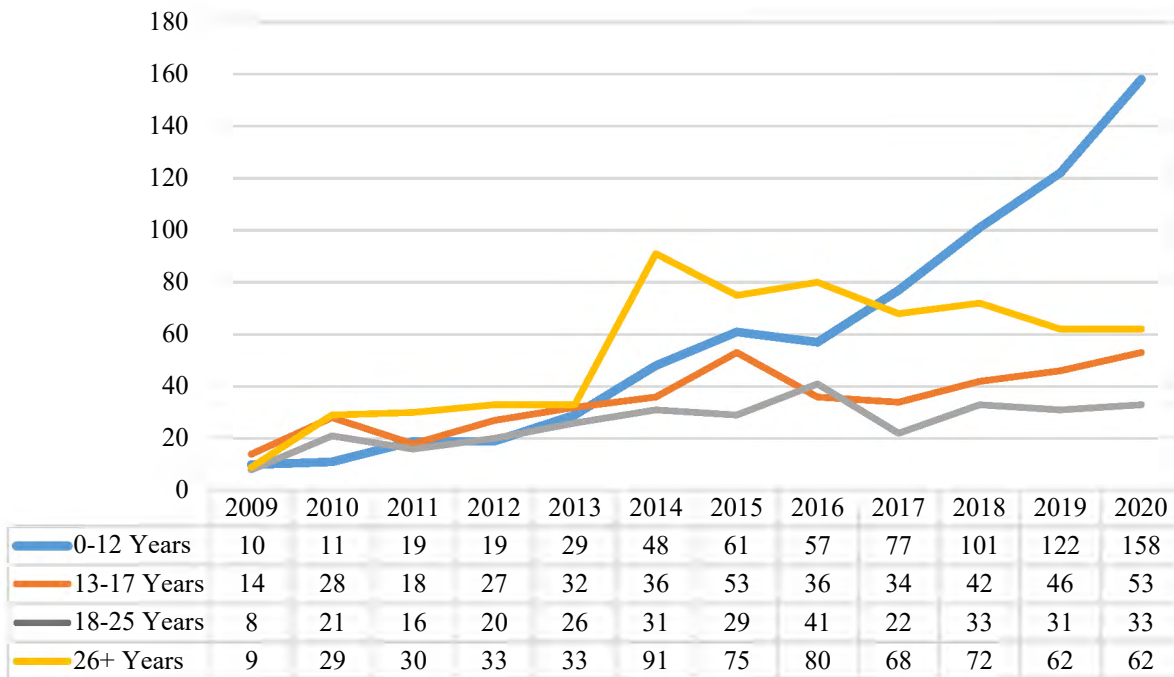
Percent of Marijuana Exposures 0-8 Year Olds, By Marijuana Type (2016-2020)



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

NOTE: The code for marijuana edibles did not go into effect until 2016. Therefore, any cases of edible marijuana exposure which occurred prior to 2016 were coded under “dry plant.” Other marijuana includes oral pills/capsules, concentrated extracts (to include oils and tinctures), topical preparations, marijuana devices, and unknown/other forms of marijuana.

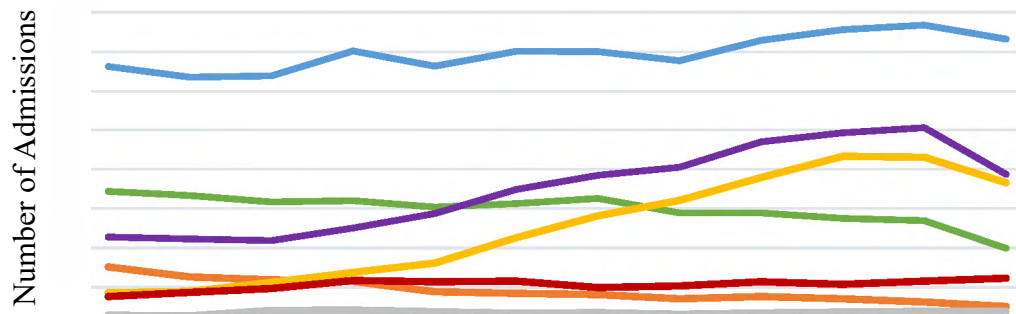
Marijuana-Related Exposures by Age Range (2009-2020)



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center

Treatment Data

Drug Type for Treatment Admissions, All Ages

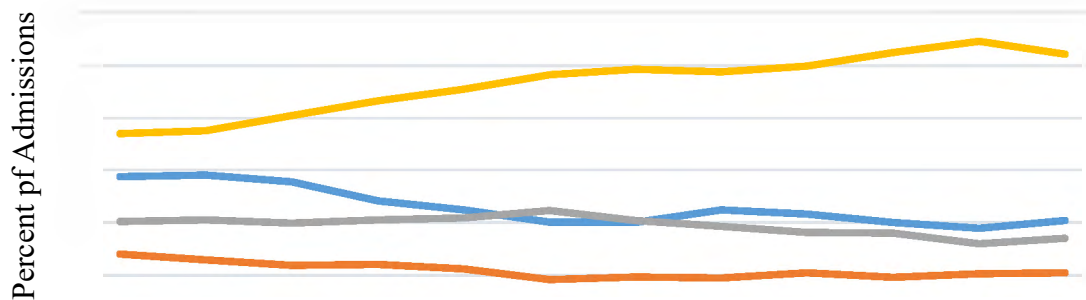


	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Marijuana	6,868	6,665	6,342	6,408	6,065	6,257	6,520	5,783	5,785	5,498	5,394	3,980
Cocaine	3,034	2,523	2,380	2,288	1,775	1,681	1,618	1,414	1,518	1,402	1,252	1,017*
Meth	4,557	4,450	4,368	5,007	5,746	6,972	7,700	8,110	9,389	9,859	10,115	7,743
Heroin	1,713	1,790	2,237	2,746	3,225	4,520	5,634	6,420	7,581	8,655	8,610	7,323*
Rx Opioids	1,522	1,739	1,934	2,339	2,277	2,304	1,987	2,059	2,271	2,138	2,307	2,460
Alcohol	13,263	12,710	12,788	14,035	13,277	14,023	14,013	13,544	14,587	15,124	15,345	14,653
Other	572	548	827	830	761	667	710	620	692	734	773	768

SOURCE: Colorado Department of Health Services, Office of Behavioral Health

***NOTE:** Treatment admissions for cocaine and heroin in 2020 do not include the 12-17 age group as there were less than 30 admissions and were therefore omitted.

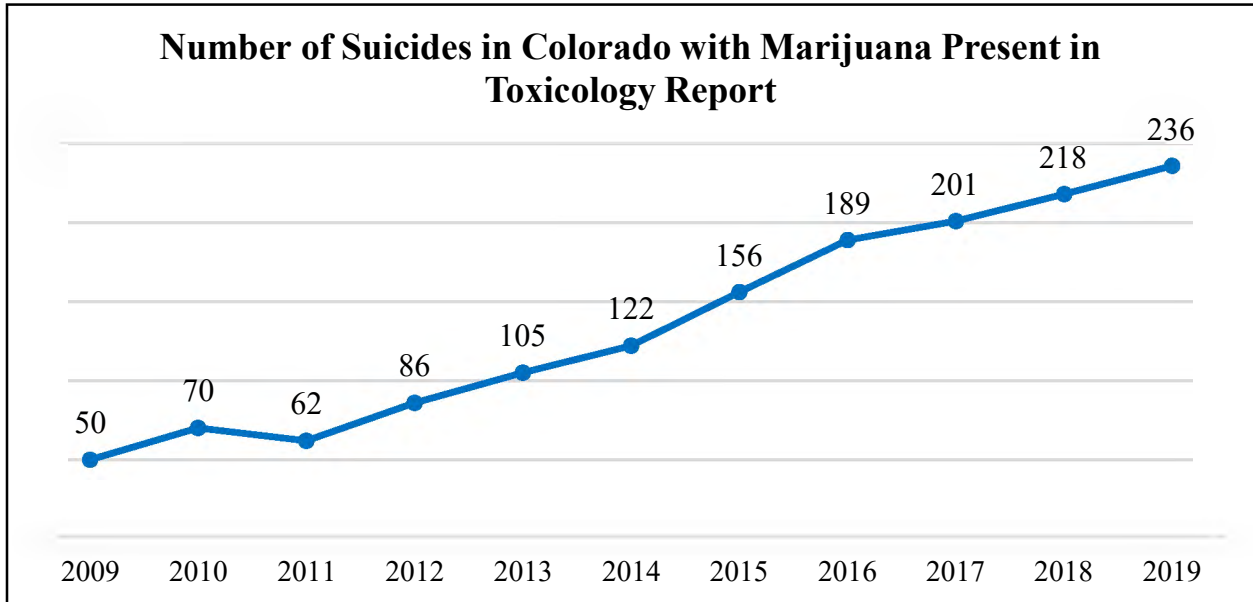
Percent of Marijuana Treatment Admissions by Age Group



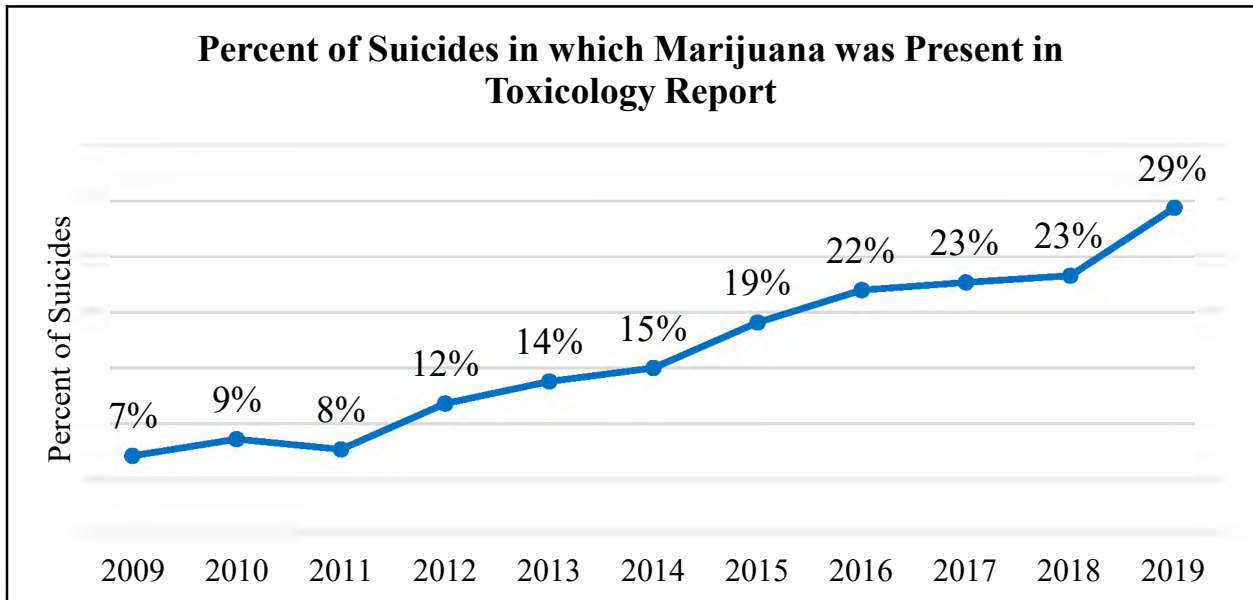
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
12-17	28.7	29.0	27.7	24.1	22.4	20.1	20.0	22.4	21.6	20.0	18.9	20.4
18-20	14.0	12.9	11.9	12.1	11.2	9.2	9.7	9.5	10.5	9.6	10.3	10.5
21-25	20.2	20.5	19.9	20.5	20.9	22.3	20.4	19.3	18.1	18.0	16.0	17
26+	37.1	37.6	40.5	43.3	45.5	48.3	49.3	48.8	49.9	52.5	54.6	52.2

SOURCE: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Based on administrative data reported by states to TEDS pulled on July 8, 2021.

Suicide Data



SOURCE: CDPHE, Colorado Violent Death Reporting System

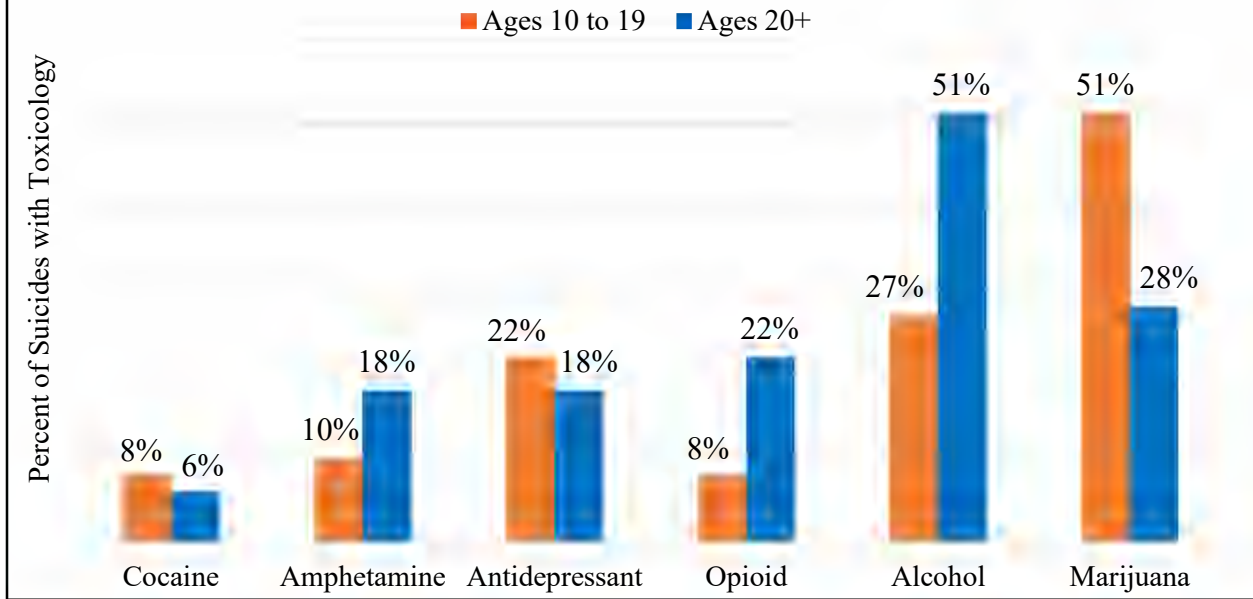


SOURCE: CDPHE, Colorado Violent Death Reporting System

NOTE: Toxicology is not available for every suicide. Only those suicides with toxicology available are represented above. Due to an 18-month lag in detailed suicide circumstances and toxicology information from coroner and law enforcement records, 2019 is the most recent year available.

NOTE: Toxicology results were available for 62% of suicides from 2019. As a result, there may be underrepresentation in the numbers and percentages presented.

Suicide Toxicology Results by Age Group, 2019



SOURCE: CDPHE, Colorado Violent Death Reporting System

NOTE: Toxicology results were available for 62% of suicides from 2019. As a result, there may be underrepresentation in the numbers and percentages presented.

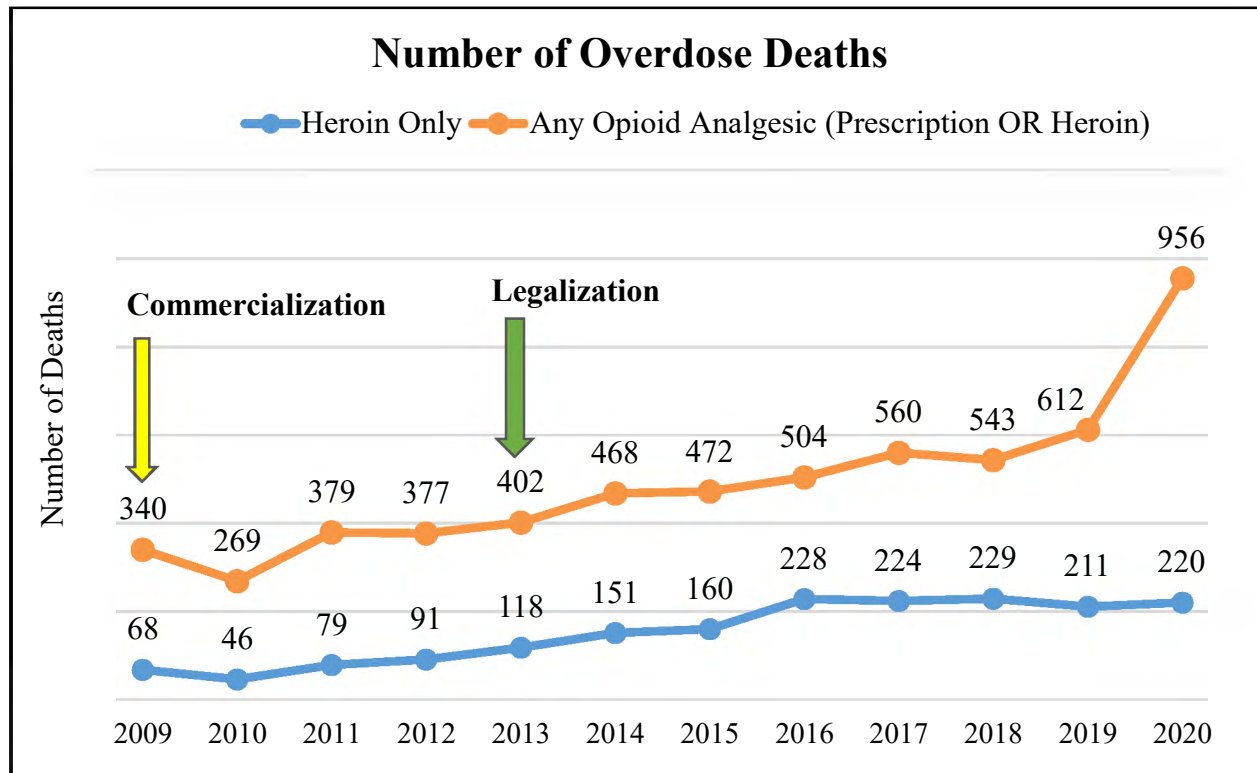
Out of All Suicides Ages 20 and Older, The Percent Positive for Marijuana



SOURCE: CDPHE, Colorado Violent Death Reporting System

NOTE: Toxicology results were available for 62% of suicides from 2019. As a result, there may be underrepresentation in the numbers and percentages presented.

Colorado Opioid Overdose Deaths



Source: CDPHE, Vital Statistics Program

This data is included in response to reports of declining opioid overdose deaths post-marijuana legalization.

NOTE: Heroin cause of death codes include T40.1. Any Opioid Analgesic (prescription or heroin) cause of death codes include T40.1-T40.4

Public Health Information

Impact of Licensed and Unlicensed Cannabis Retailers in California

California legalized recreational marijuana in 2016, which resulted in the establishment of unlicensed retailers until the issuance of cannabis retail licenses at the end of 2017. For example, in Los Angeles County, there are 37 licensed retailers compared to 92 unlicensed retailers. This can create problems for regulation as unlicensed locations “have been reported to engage in illegal business practices that can compromise public health and encourage underage use, including selling products that exceed the legal THC limit, selling counterfeit products that contain pesticides, allowing consumption of cannabis in retail stores, not imposing daily limits on purchases, staying open late at night, and selling products that are attractive to youth and lack child-resistant packaging” (Unger et al, 2020).

The results indicated that “neighborhoods with only licensed retailers represented 8% of the California population, neighborhoods with only unlicensed retailers represented 17% of the California population, and neighborhoods with both licensed/unlicensed retailers represented 18% of the California population. Of all neighborhood types, neighborhoods with only unlicensed retailers had the lowest proportion of non-Hispanic whites (25%) and the highest proportion of Hispanics (52%). However, the highest proportions of African Americans (9%), Asian Americans (15%), and individuals living in poverty (19%) were in neighborhoods with both licensed/unlicensed retailers” (Unger et al, 2020). Residents living near unlicensed retailers face greater public health risks due to the lack of regulation of the products and the authors recommend greater enforcement of these dangerous practices.

Source: Unger, J., Vos, R., Wu, J., Hardaway, K., Li Sarain, A., Soto, D., Rogers, C., and Steinberg, J. (2020). *Locations of licensed and unlicensed cannabis retailers in California: A threat to health equity*. Preventive Medicine Reports, 19, 101165-101173.

Mixed Findings for the Public Health Effects of Medical Marijuana Treatment

Researchers sought to examine the public health effects from the use of medical marijuana on various conditions- amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, autism, cancer, chronic noncancer pain, Crohn’s disease, epilepsy, glaucoma, human immunodeficiency virus/AIDS, multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson’s disease, and posttraumatic stress disorder. Across the 33 states in which medical marijuana is legal, there are over 50 medical conditions that have qualified to be treated through the use of medical marijuana. Nationwide, 6.2% of people use medical marijuana and 3.6% use both medical and recreational marijuana. A systematic review was conducted for studies that took place from May 2016 to October 2019.

The results indicated that “there is conclusive or substantial evidence for cannabis in treating chronic noncancer pain, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (oral cannabinoids), and MS spasticity symptoms (via oral cannabinoids). In addition, limited evidence was reported for the efficacy of cannabis and cannabinoids for the purposes of increasing appetite and decreasing weight loss in patients with HIV/AIDS, improving clinician measures of MS spasticity symptoms (specifically, via oral cannabinoids), and improving symptoms of PTSD (specifically, with

nabilone)” (Jugl et al, 2021). However, there was insufficient evidence to support evidence of medical marijuana improving glaucoma symptoms. In addition, studies showed neither support or opposition for indications such as “cancer (cannabinoids), cancer-associated anorexia-cachexia syndrome and anorexia nervosa (cannabinoids), symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (dronabinol), epilepsy (cannabinoids), symptoms associated with ALS, or Parkinson’s disease-related symptoms or levodopa-induced dyskinesia (cannabinoids)” (Jugl et al, 2021).

Source: Jugl, S., Okpeku, A., Costales, B., Morris, E., Alipour-Haris, G., Hincapie-Castillo, J., Stetten, N., Sajdeya, R., Keshwani, S., Joseph, V., Zhang, Y., Shen, Y., Adkins, L., Winterstein, A., and Goodin, A. (2021). *A mapping literature review of medical cannabis clinical outcomes and quality of evidence in approved conditions in the USA from 2016 to 2019*. *Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids*, 4(1), 21-42.

Analysis of Pre-Existing Factors and Experiences to Marijuana Use During Pregnancy

Similar to cigarette use during pregnancy, marijuana can have physical effects on the fetus such as anemia, low birth weight, and more time spent in the neonatal intensive care unit after birth. Although women have used marijuana to assist with nausea in the first trimester, some medical professionals have expressed concerns of this practice. A study was conducted and found 29.6% of women used marijuana prior to their first prenatal visit. Additionally, the participants in the study who used marijuana while pregnant were more likely to be unemployed, have low educational attainment, use tobacco and alcohol, and experience depression. The rate of women using marijuana decreased across pregnancy terms.

The authors of this study recruited 101 pregnant participants in Indiana who used the WIC Food and Nutrition Service. The main measures were childhood adversity, interpersonal violence, cigarette use, and marijuana use. Of the participants, 71% experienced childhood adversity like physical abuse, 28% used at least one cigarette a day, and 7% used marijuana during pregnancy. Results indicated a strong association between marijuana use during pregnancy and sexual interpersonal violence.

The researchers concluded “this study suggests that a comprehensive assessment of women’s history of exposure to violence provides insight into which women may have the most difficulty with unassisted substance cessation in the prenatal period—above and beyond already known risk factors, including sociodemographic characteristics and pre-pregnancy smoking behaviors. It could be that women who have experienced recent IPV and past childhood adversity may experience a higher general stress burden, making cessation more difficult. Providing better intervention and support around smoking and marijuana cessation for women exposed to violence is therefore a critical need, even among groups that are at a generally high sociodemographic risk” (Miller-Graff et al, 2021).

Source: Miller-Graff, L., Howell, K., Grein, K., and Keough, K. (2021). *Women’s cigarette and marijuana use in pregnancy: identifying the role of past versus recent violence exposure*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36(7-8), NP3983-NP3998.

Section IV: Black-Market

Some Findings

- RMHIDTA Colorado Drug Task Forces (10) conducted **294 investigations** of black-market marijuana in Colorado resulting in:
 - **168** felony arrests
 - **5.54** tons of marijuana seized
 - **86,502** marijuana plants seized
 - **21** different states the marijuana was destined
- Seizures of marijuana reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) in Colorado **increased 48%** from an average of 174 parcels (2009-2012) when marijuana was commercialized to an average of 257 parcels (2013-2020) during the time recreational marijuana become legalized.

Definitions by Rocky Mountain HIDTA

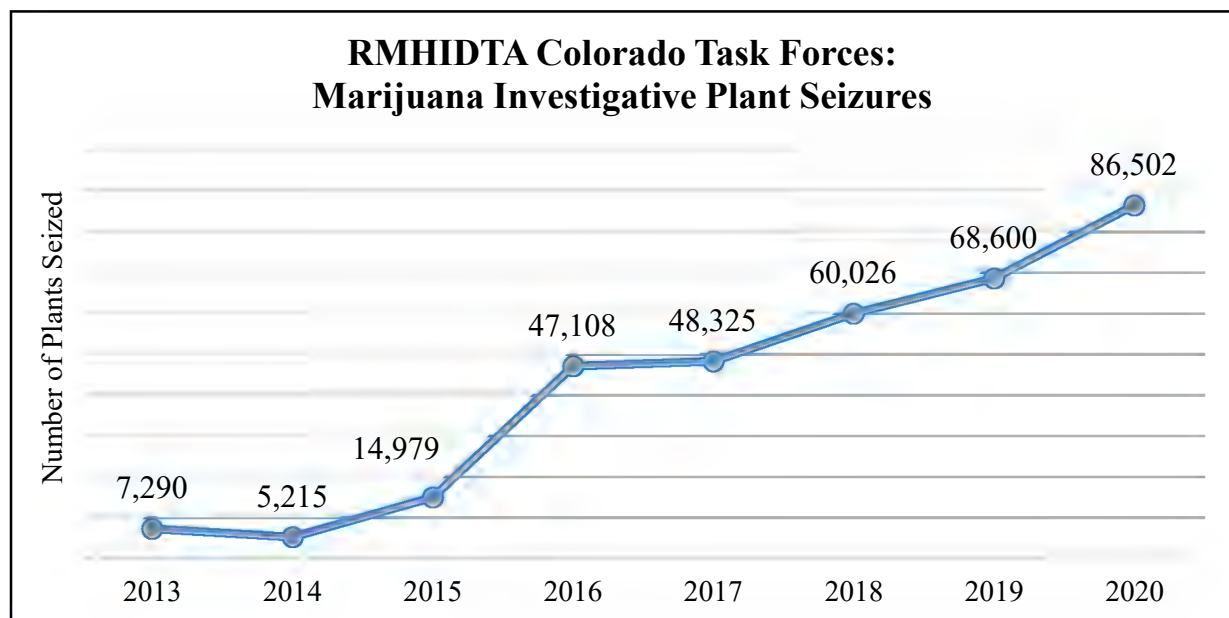
Colorado Marijuana Investigations: RMHIDTA Colorado drug task forces investigating individuals or organizations involved in illegally selling Colorado marijuana, both within and outside of the state. These investigations only include those reported by the ten RMHIDTA drug task forces.

Colorado Marijuana Interdictions: Interdictions include incidents where drugs are being transported, generally by vehicle or parcel, and the shipment is randomly seized by law enforcement. Interdictions are made by Colorado State Patrol.

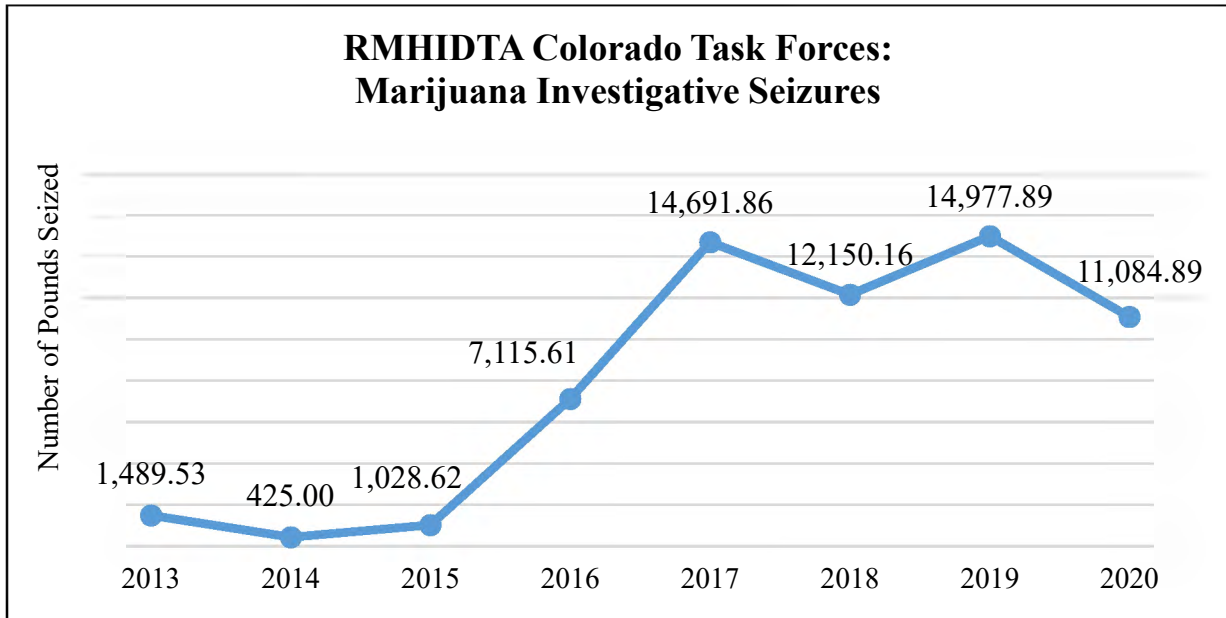
Task Force Investigations

Rocky Mountain HIDTA Colorado Task Forces			
	2018	2019	2020
Number of Completed Investigations	257	278	294
Number of Felony Arrests	192	237	168
Pounds of Bulk Marijuana Seized	12,150 (6.1 tons)	14,978 (7.5 tons)	11,085 (5.5 tons)
Number of Plants Seized	60,026	68,600	86,502
Number of Edibles Seized	2,894	15,025	4,202
Pounds of Hash/THC Concentrate Seized	319	86	626
Different States to Which Marijuana was Destined	25	29	21

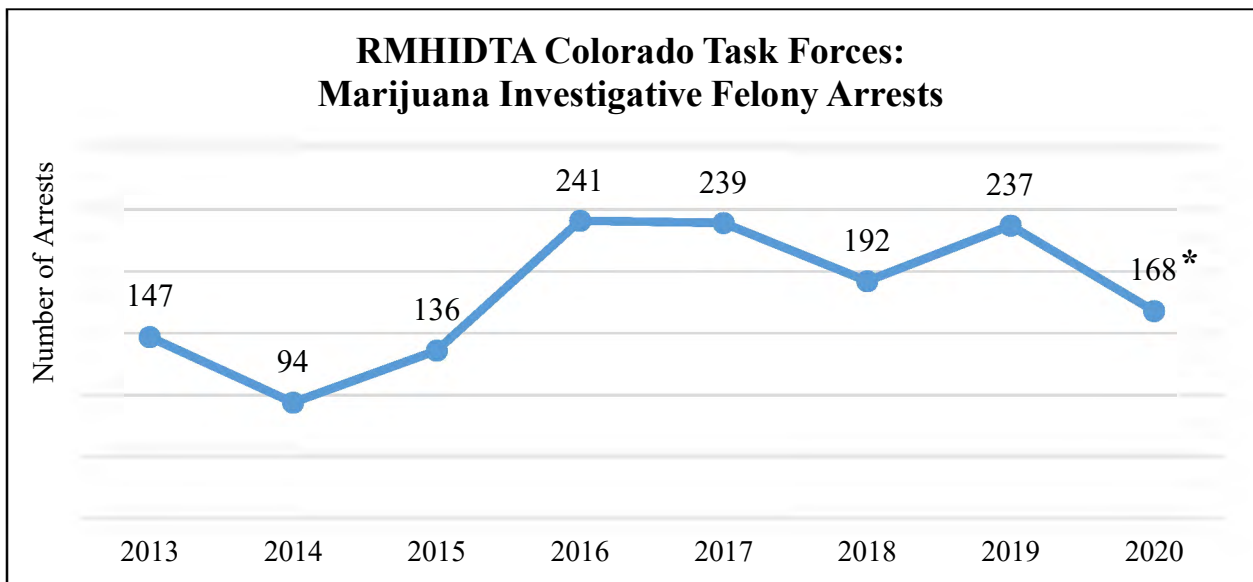
Task force data only includes completed investigations reported by the RMHIDTA Colorado Investigative Drug Task Forces. It is unknown how many of these types of investigations were completed by non-RMHIDTA Colorado drug units or task forces.



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Data



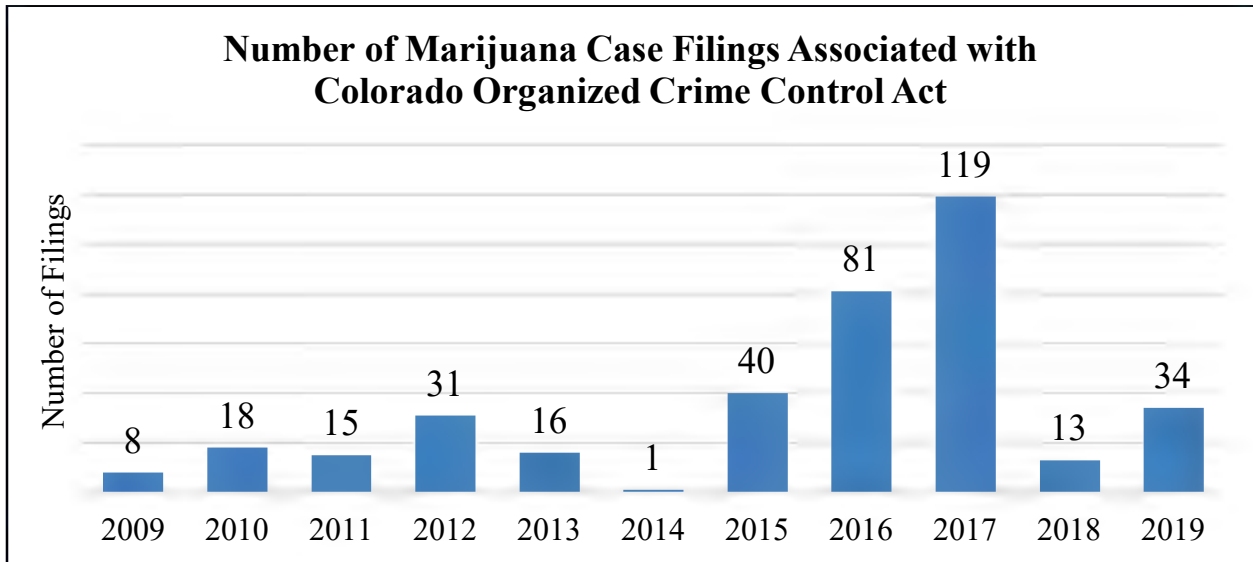
SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Data



SOURCE: Rocky Mountain HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Data

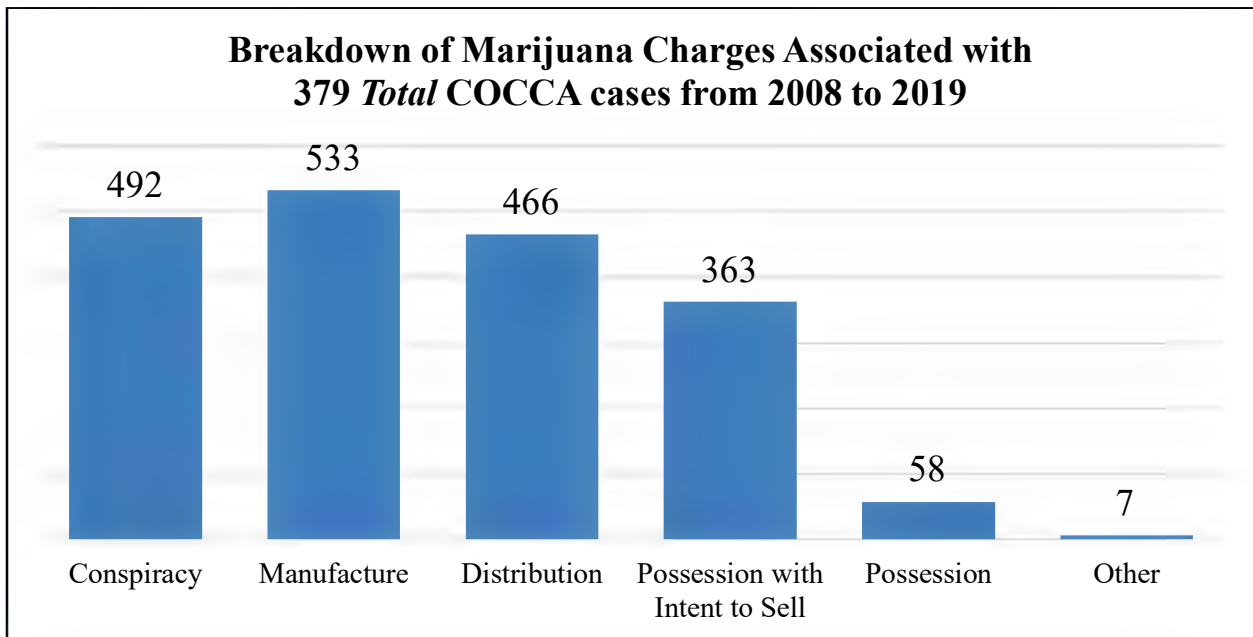
*** NOTE:** In 2020, arrest numbers were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic's impact of the local, state, and federal judicial systems.

Colorado Organized Crime Control Act Filings



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics

Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) filings are conspiracy cases in which there is potential for a larger sentence than other types of drug filings.

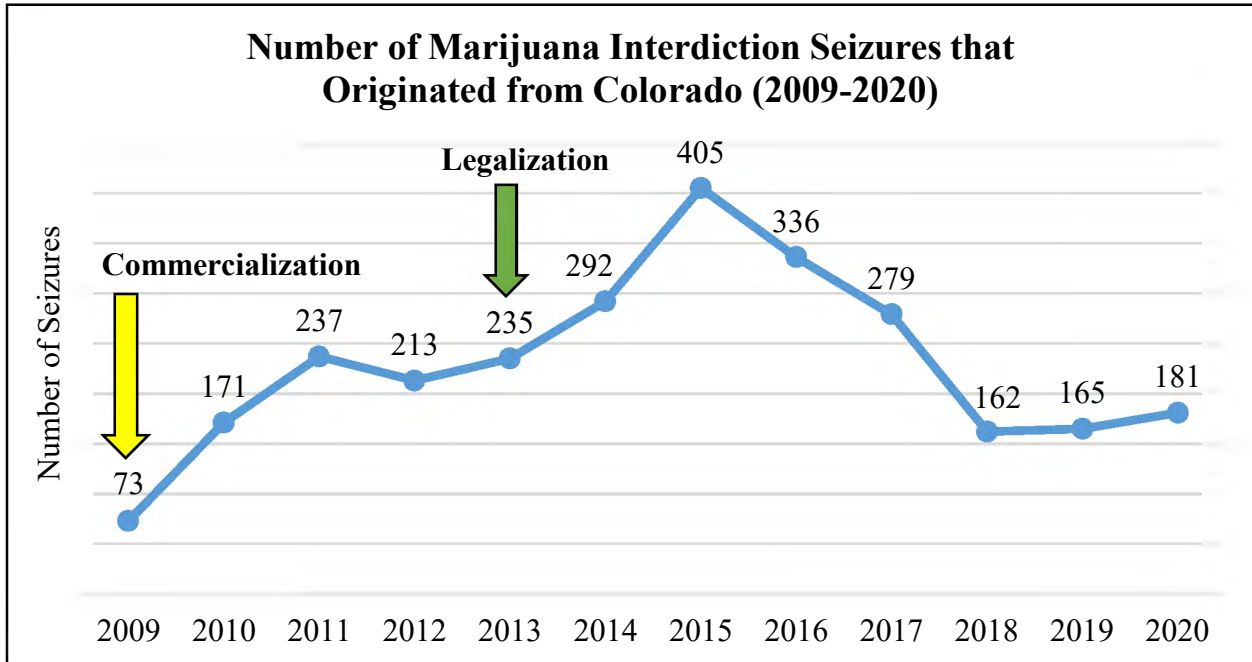


SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Research and Statistics

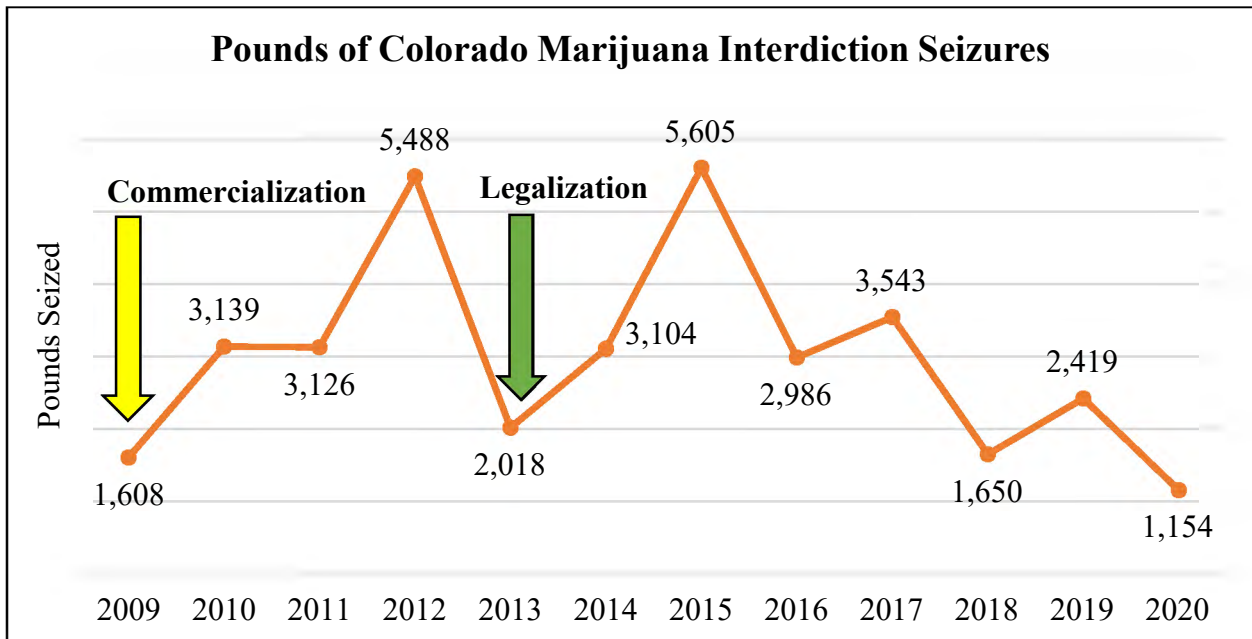
NOTE: The breakdown is more than the 379 total COCCA cases as there can be multiple charges associated with each case.

Highway Interdiction Data

NOTE: The charts below only include cases where Colorado marijuana was actually seized and reported. It is unknown how many Colorado marijuana loads were not detected or, if seized, were not reported. These are roadside interdictions voluntarily reported by state highway patrol to EPIC.



SOURCE: EPIC, National Seizure System, as of July 2021



SOURCE: EPIC, National Seizure System, as of July 2021

Black Market Information

Black-Market Marijuana Continues After Legalization

Despite the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado, the black-market marijuana continues to thrive. In 2019, federal and local law enforcement conducted the largest marijuana bust in the history of Colorado- raids across 250 homes and businesses, dozens of arrests, over 80,000 marijuana plants, and nearly \$2.2 million in assets. The base of this operation was buying suburban homes in the Denver Metro area with large, unfinished basements for the cultivation of thousands of plants, operating under the radar in plain sight. Then, the money was laundered through family restaurants by multiple Chinese drug trafficking organizations.

There is difficulty, however, in fully assessing the size of the black market as all the efforts are “underground” and not well known. It has been established by the Drug Enforcement Administration that well-established drug trafficking organizations are able to generate millions of dollars through the sale of up 1,800 pounds of marijuana a year based on 100 plants grown. This problem has resulted in the creation of the Illicit Market Marijuana Team within the Colorado Bureau of Investigations. The solution to combating the black market is split between those who believe law enforcement needs more resources with those who feel greater legalization and lower prices in the legal market could have the most impact.

Source: Tabachnik, S. (2021, June 20). *Black market marijuana grows are popping up faster than law enforcement can take them down. But is legalization the cause?* Denver Post. Retrieved from <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/06/20/black-market-marijuana-colorado-chinese-crime-rings/>

Perceptions from Marijuana Users of “Legal” and “Illegal” Markets

While legalization of recreational marijuana is expected to decrease the black market in these states, this is not always the case. After legalization, the retail price of marijuana decreased by 62% in Colorado from 2014 to 2017. While the prices also dropped in Washington and Oregon, it was a lower decline than Colorado. Some studies have indicated that buyers may be willing to pay a higher price for a legal purchase as well as high quality products. For some buyers though, the pre-existing relationship with their supplier may continue to connect them to the illegal market.

The results of the online survey demonstrated a positive perception of the legal marijuana market in these states by participants. Additionally, researchers found “respondents, including frequent cannabis consumers, perceived legal cannabis to be of equal or greater quality and convenience, and as safer to buy and use than cannabis from illegal sources. The one notable exception was price: legal cannabis products were perceived as more expensive than illegal products, particularly among frequent cannabis users. The prevalence of this belief suggests that price may in fact be a barrier to transitioning to the legal market; however, it is also possible that higher prices may be tolerated given that legal cannabis products may be perceived as higher quality, safer and more convenient to access. However, frequent users may be able to obtain what they perceive as high-quality products at lower prices through established relationships with unauthorized dealers. Price perceptions were generally more favorable in states with a longer time with retail sales: Colorado, Washington, and Oregon” (Fataar et al, 2021).

Source: Fataar, F., Goodman, S., Wadsworth, E., and Hammond, D. (2021). *Consumer perceptions of “legal” and “illegal” cannabis in US states with legal cannabis sales.* Addictive Behaviors, 112, 106563-106569

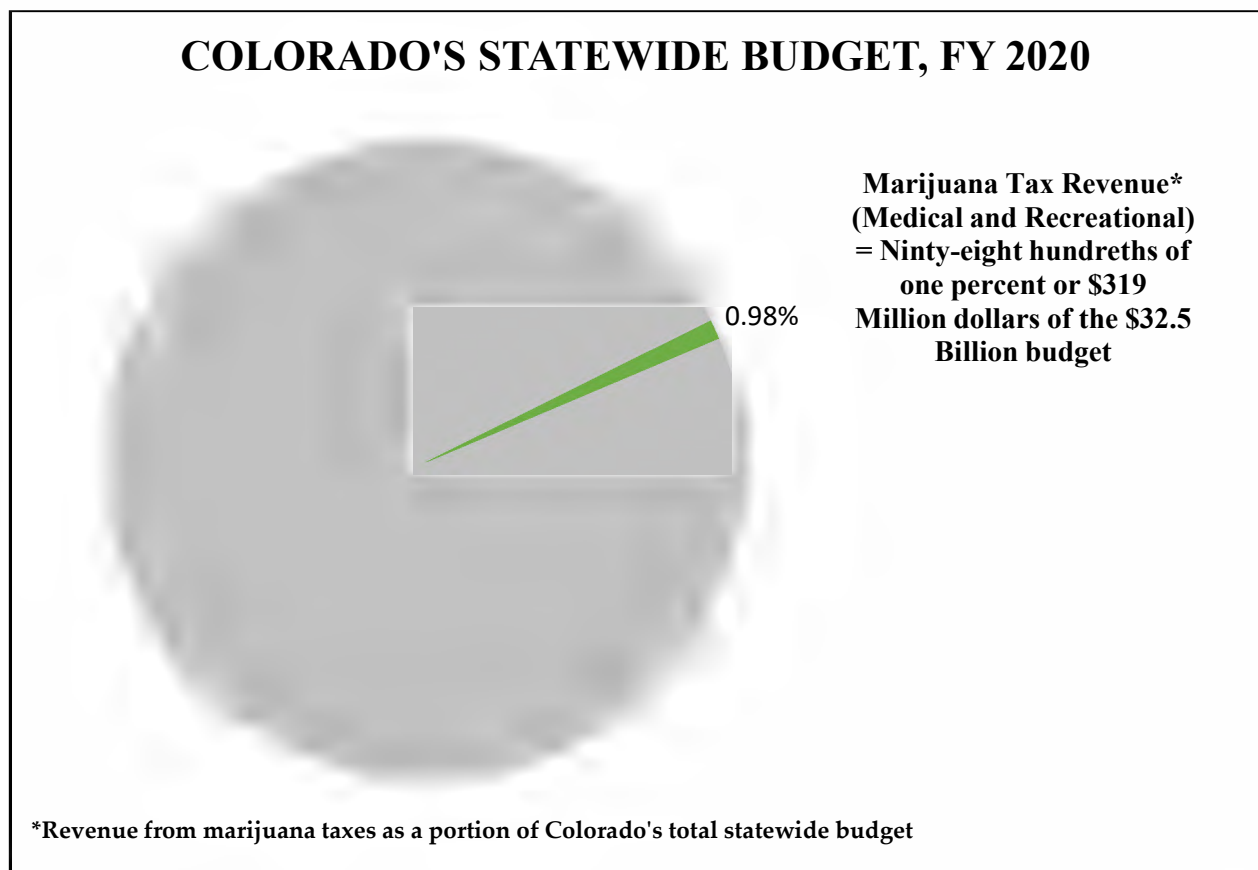
Section V: Societal Impact

Some Findings

- Marijuana tax revenue represent approximately **0.98%** of Colorado’s FY 2020 budget.
- **66%** of local jurisdictions in Colorado have banned medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

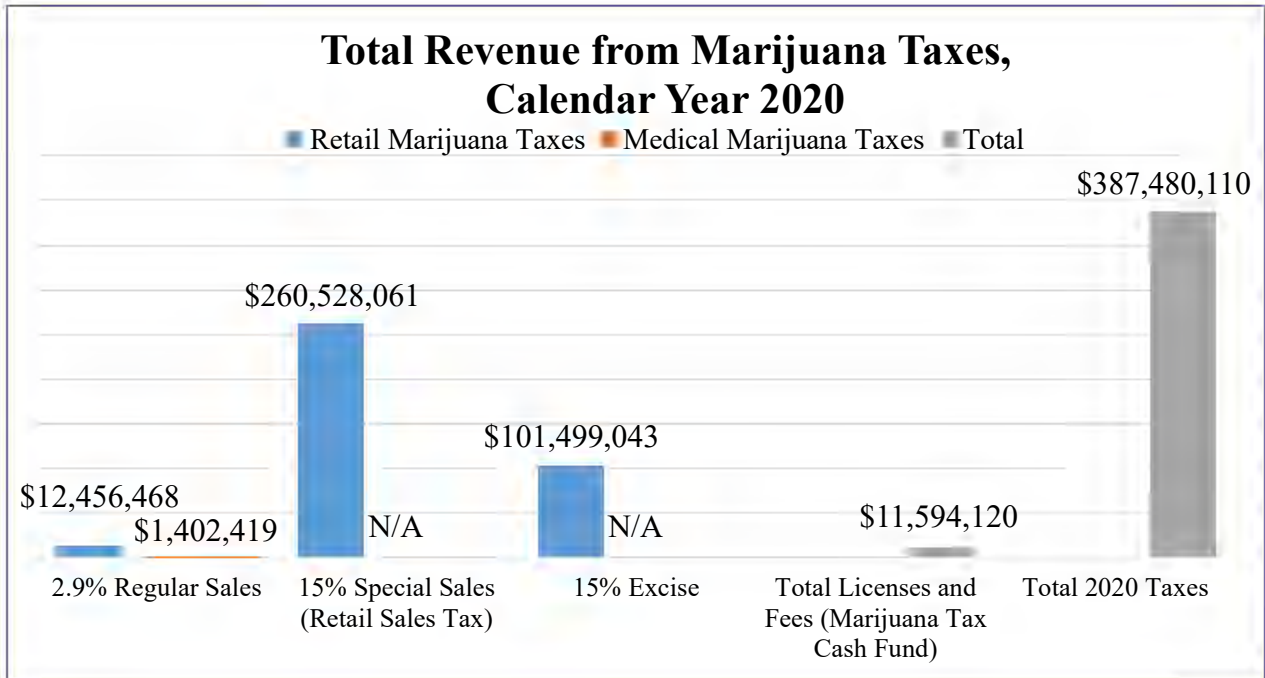
For more detailed marijuana-related crime information, please visit https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2021-SB13-283_Rpt.pdf.

Tax Revenue



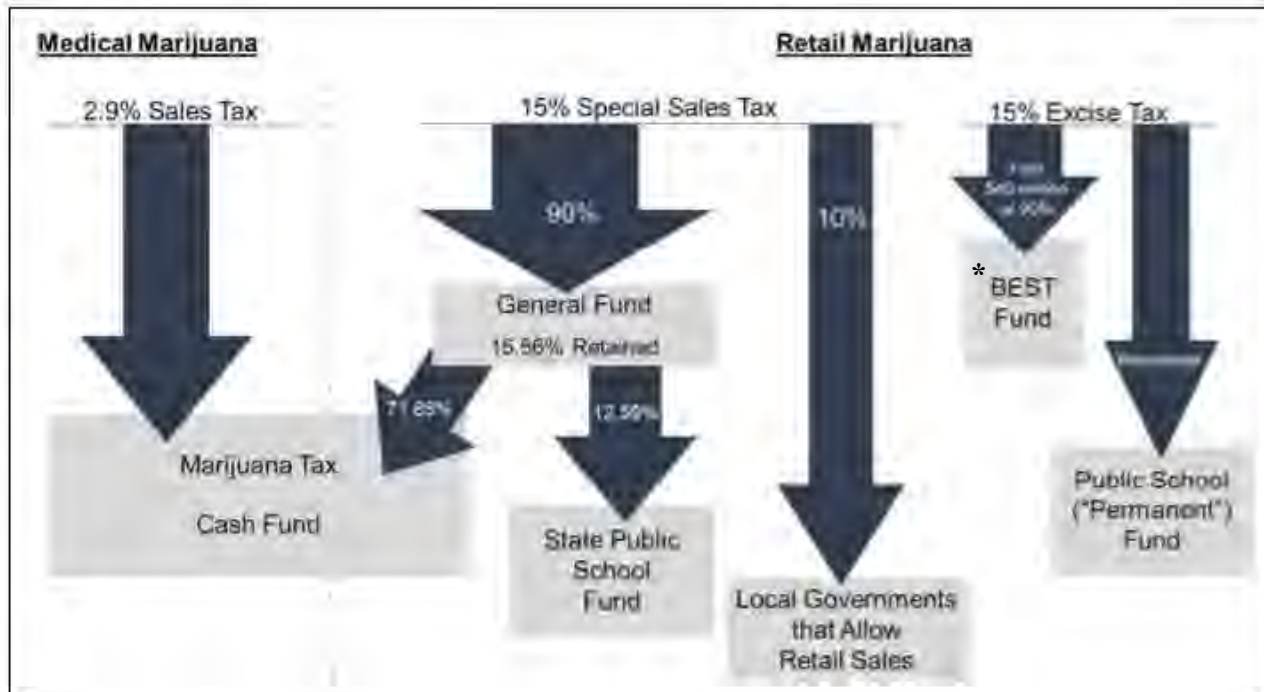
SOURCE: Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting

***NOTE:** Revenue from marijuana taxes as a portion of Colorado's total statewide budget.



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue

NOTE: Figures do not include any city taxes; the state does not assess or collect those taxes. Per §39-26-729, C.R.S., retail marijuana, retail marijuana products, and retail marijuana concentrates are exempt from the 2.9% regular sales tax; however, products that do not contain marijuana (i.e., accessories) are still subject to the 2.9% regular sales tax. Licenses and fees include the following categories: retail marijuana, individual, others, and collections not yet allocated.



SOURCE: Joint Budget Committee Appropriations Report Fiscal Year 2019-2020

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Crime

Marijuana-Related Arrests in Colorado			
	Crimes Against Person	Crimes Against Property	Crimes Against Society
2009	187	426	10,388
2010	172	416	10,026
2011	167	450	10,576
2012	192	441	11,365
2013	45	216	5,358
2014	60	273	5,689
2015	55	253	5,560
2016	69	327	5,126
2017	83	297	4,983
2018	74	310	4,641
2019	70	268	3,704
2020	65	188	2,140

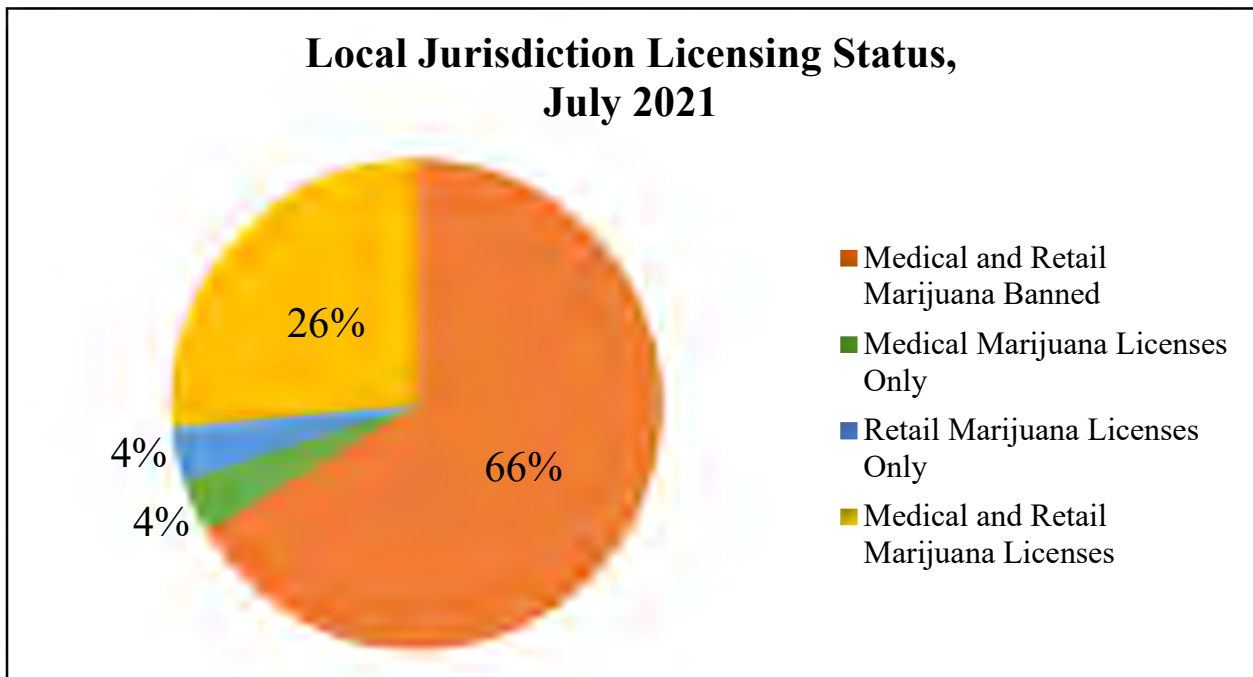
SOURCE: Colorado Bureau of Investigations Crime Statistics

NOTE: In 2020, arrest numbers were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic's impact of the local, state, and federal judicial systems.

Local Response

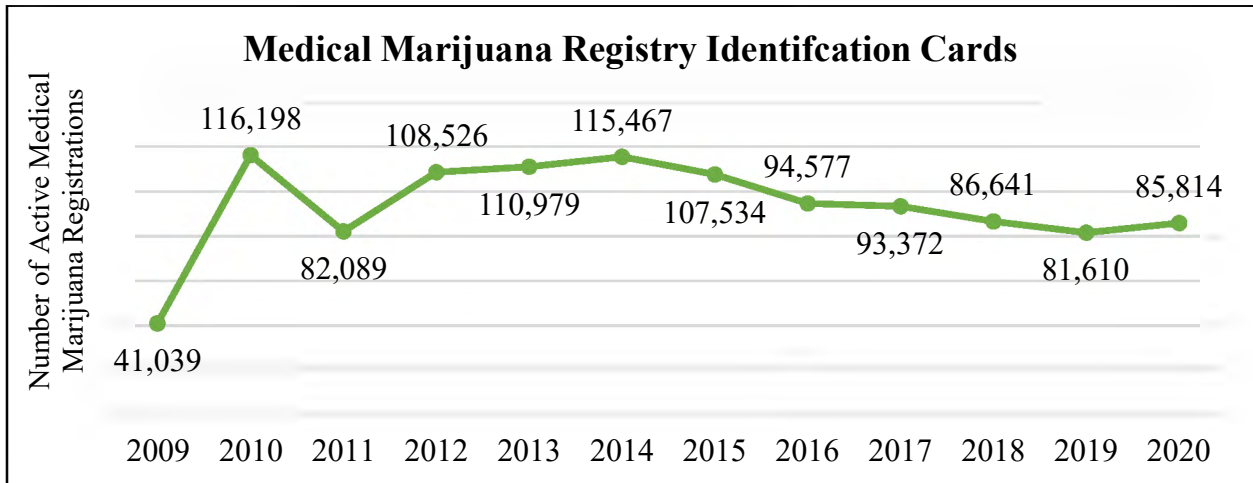
Status of Local Jurisdictions Reporting Marijuana Licensing as of July 12, 2021	
	Number of Jurisdictions
Medical and Retail Marijuana Banned	221
Medical Marijuana Licenses Only	12
Retail Marijuana Licenses Only	12
Medical and Retail Marijuana Licenses	88
Total	333

SOURCE: Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division



SOURCE: Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division

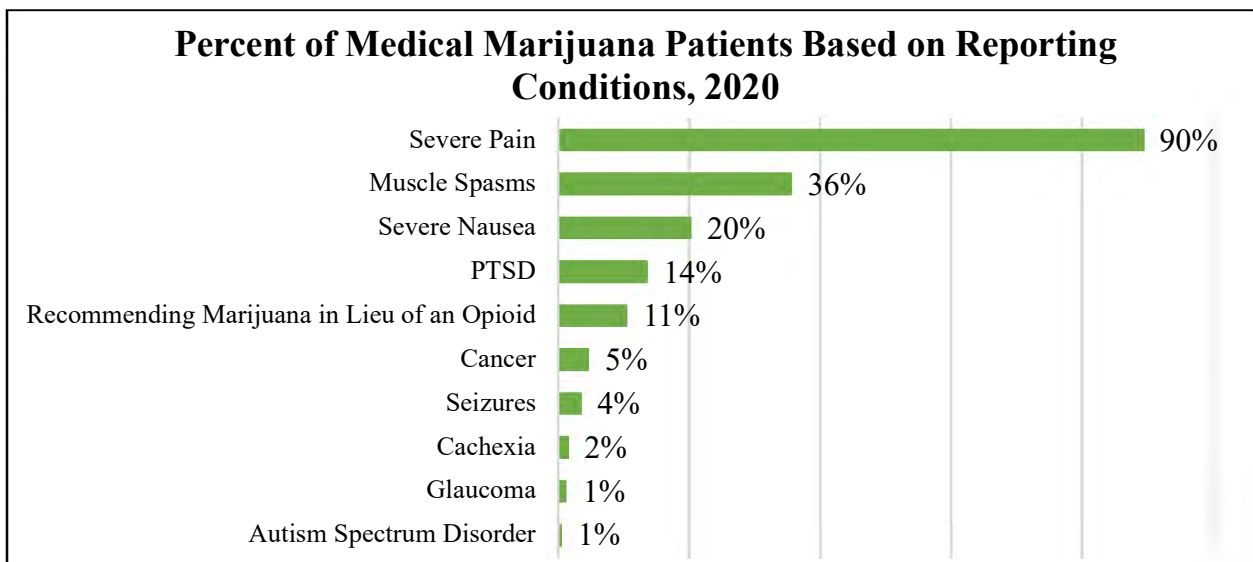
Medical Marijuana Statistics



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

Profile of Colorado Medical Marijuana Cardholders:

- Demographics of cardholder:
 - 61% male with an average age of 41 years
 - 39% female with an average age of 44 years
 - 0.32% between the ages of 0 and 17
 - 4.57% between the ages of 18 and 40 and 22.81% between the ages of 21 and 30
- Top five counties in Colorado- 63.1% of total patients:
 - El Paso County- 28.6%
 - Denver County 13.0%
 - Jefferson County- 9.5%
 - Arapahoe County-7.7%
 - Adams County- 6.3%

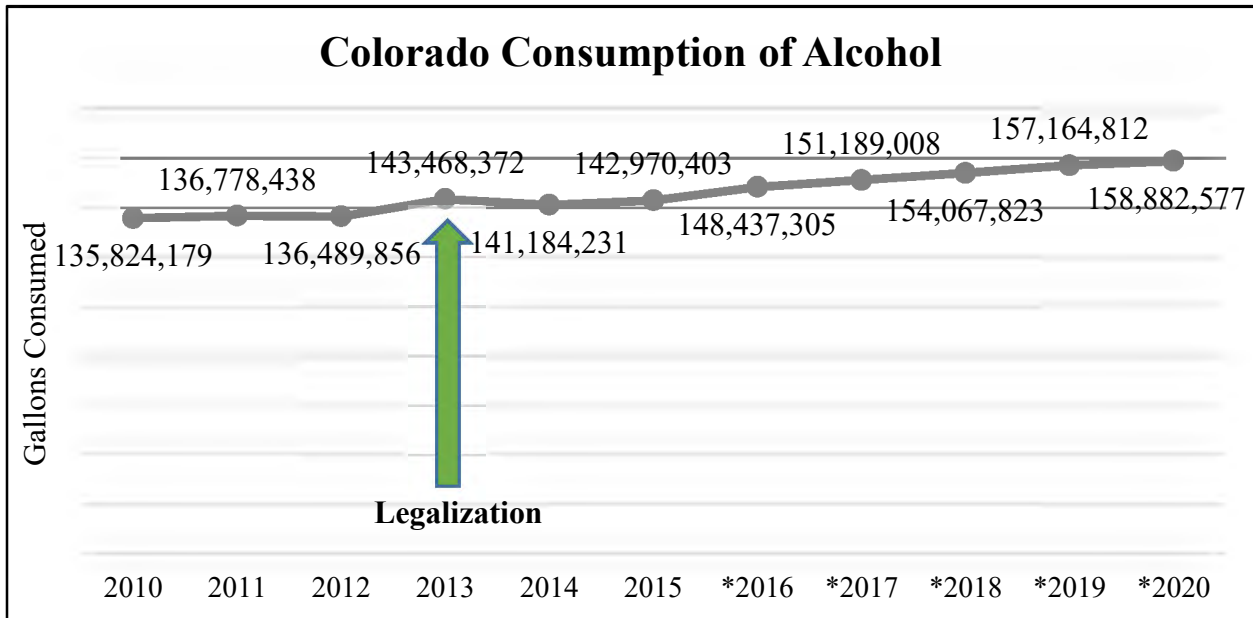


SOURCE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

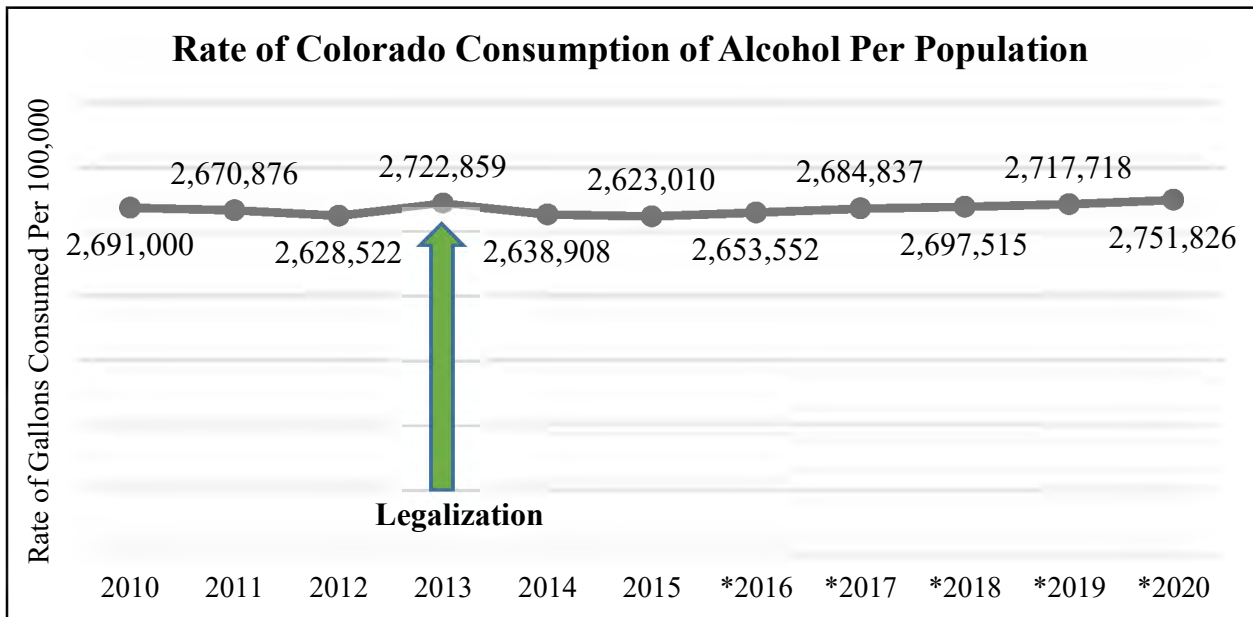
NOTE: Percentages do not add to 100% as some patients report more than one debilitating or disabling medical condition.

Alcohol Consumption

- It has been suggested that legalizing marijuana would reduce alcohol consumption. Thus far that theory is not supported by the data.



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Colorado Liquor Excise Tax



SOURCE: Colorado Department of Revenue, Colorado Liquor Excise Tax

***NOTE:** Data from 2009 was not available at this time. Calculations of total gallons consumed and the rate of consumption slightly differed from 2010-2015 compared to 2016-2020.

Societal Impact Information

Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries Impact on Property Values in Washington

A study in Washington was completed to assess the impact of marijuana legalization on property values throughout the state. The authors sought to better understand the local level impacts of the expansion of marijuana businesses in neighborhoods throughout Washington. This study utilized data from property sales and retailers statewide to compare the prices in neighborhoods before and after the opening of a recreational marijuana business. One factor that the authors hypothesize may be the source of the decrease in prices is the perception that dispensaries result in more crime in the area. However, existing evidence is unclear of this relationship.

The study resulted in an estimation that while there was not a statistically significant impact on overall crime reports, nuisance crimes around dispensaries increased but drug-related crimes decreased. “Increased nuisance related crime, therefore, may be one contributing factor to depressed home prices in areas near dispensaries” (Thomas and Tian, 2021). When examining the final results, “a marijuana dispensary decreases property values by 3%–4% for homes within 0.36 miles of the retailer, a decline of about \$10,000–\$15,000 based on the average home values in Washington. These results imply a high willingness to pay to avoid the local negative externalities. [...] While we find limited evidence of a general decrease in overall crime and statistically significant evidence of a decrease in drug-related reports, we estimate that nuisance-related crime reports increase by about 4.2 per 10,000 census tract residents. Moreover, we find evidence that violent crime slightly increases in census tracts adjoining those where dispensaries locate. Our findings suggest that crime risk could be a contributing factor to the negative price impacts of dispensaries, but that is likely only a partial explanation” (Thomas and Tian, 2021).

Source: Thomas, D. and Tian, L. (2021). *Hits from the bong: The impact of recreational marijuana dispensaries on property values*. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 87, 103655-103675.

Crime in Colorado and Washington State Post-Legalization

While some believed that crimes, particularly marijuana-related crimes, would decrease after the legalization of recreational marijuana, the preliminary data suggested a significant increase in crime rates. The authors created a study examining the UCR data from 1999 to 2016 in Colorado and Washington at a monthly crime rate compared to control states in which recreational marijuana was not legal. In the results, there was little effect on overall crime rates in Colorado and Washington post-legalization, particularly on violent crimes. However, there was a statistically significant increase in larceny in Colorado immediately after legalization as well as an increase in aggravated assaults, burglary, and overall property crime in Washington. This trend dissipated in recent years and appeared to have been short-lived. Overall, the authors concluded there was “virtually no statistically significant long-term effects of recreational marijuana legalization or retail sales on violent or property crime rates, except for a significant decline of burglary rates in Washington. There were some immediate increases in crime at the point of legalization, but these did not result in long-term effects” (Lu et al, 2021).

Source: Lu, R., Willits, D., Stohr, M., Makin, D., Snyder, J., Lovrich, N., Meize, M., Stanton, D., Wu, G., and Hemmens, C. (2021) *The cannabis effect on crime: time-series analysis of crime in Colorado and Washington state*. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(4), 565-595.

Impact of Marijuana Legalization on Colorado Clearance Rates

One of the arguments in favor of the legalization of marijuana was police resources would be freed up with less marijuana-related crimes. On the other side of the argument, some believed areas around dispensaries would become a hub for crime, both violent and property, due to the large amount of cash associated with these locations. This study examined violent and property crimes from 2000 to 2017 in Colorado and Washington and compared the crime rates to states where marijuana was not legalized. The results indicated that violent crime clearance rates were not affected by the legalization of marijuana in Colorado. Property crime clearance rates were also not impacted in the long-term in Colorado but instead only for one year after legalization. Similar results were found in Washington when these crimes examined in these two categories compared year-to-year. The authors speculate if the legalization of marijuana has shifted the focus from law enforcement to investigating marijuana-related DUI cases for example rather than clearing crimes.

Source: Jorgensen, C. and Harper, A. (2020). *Examining the effects of legalizing marijuana in Colorado and Washington on clearance rates: a quasi-experimental design*. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1-22.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2023

CONTACT: Rick Grillo, Captain
517.853.4800 | grillo@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Police Investigate False Report of Active Violence

There is no threat to the public or anyone at Okemos High school

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MI — On February 7, 2022 at 9:05 a.m. Meridian Township Police were dispatched to Okemos High School for a report of an active shooter. The school was immediately placed on lockdown and responding units arrived within minutes. Responding officers cleared the interior of the school and determined no shots had been fired and there was no threat. No injuries were reported. The students were dismissed for the day and were reunified with their parents.

The Meridian Township Police Department would like to thank the following agencies for assistance with this incident: Ingham County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, East Lansing Police Department, Lansing Police Department, Michigan State University Police and Public Safety, Lansing Township Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Meridian Township Fire Department, and the East Lansing Fire Department.

A joint press conference will be held at the Okemos High School on February 7, 2023 at 3 p.m. Attendees will need to enter the high school on the east side through door #20.

Anyone who has information regarding this incident are encouraged to contact Sergeant Ed Besonen at 517-853-4800, by email at besonen@meridian.mi.us, or submit an anonymous tip through the Department's social media sites.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2023

CONTACT: Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager
517.853.4440 | opsommer@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Announces 2023 MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction
Phases I and II of Project to be Completed by Year End



Meridian Township, MI – Meridian Township announces that construction for Phase I and II of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail will be completed by the end of 2023.

Construction of Phase I began in December of 2022 and is anticipated to be completed in July to September of 2023. Construction of Phase II could begin as early as March or April and will be completed by year end 2023.

“After many years of hard work to acquire the land, secure the necessary funding, and design the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, we are very excited to announce that we will be constructing Phases I and II in 2023,” said Township Senior Project Engineer Nyal Nunn. “Once Phases I and II are completed this year, users will have an easy, safe, and enjoyable option for non-motorized travel between the MSU Campus and Lake Lansing Park South, along approximately five miles of connected pathways and trails.”

Phase I is approximately one mile long and starts on the north side of the Hagadorn Road and Shaw St. intersection and concludes at the Grand River Ave. and Park Lake Road intersection. Phase I includes a pedestrian bridge that will take motorists and bicyclists over the Red Cedar River behind the MSU Community Music School. The trail will then take users along the banks of the Red Cedar River to the north side of the CN Railroad tracks.

The estimated cost of construction for Phase I is \$3.37 million. Meridian Township successfully obtained a \$1.7 million federal TAP grant for Phase I. The remaining portion of the project will be funded by the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage and the Township Pathway Millage.

Phase II is 1.2 miles long and begins near the Grand River Ave. and Campus Hill Dr. intersection and concludes near the Okemos Road and Gaylord C Smith Ct. intersection. Pedestrians and bicyclists will use the Township’s existing pathway system to get from the Grand River Ave. and Park Lake Road intersection, where Phase I ends, to the Grand River Ave. and Campus Hill Dr. intersection, where Phase II begins.

<MORE>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2023

CONTACT: Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager
517.853.4440 | opsommer@meridian.mi.us

The estimated cost of construction for Phase II is \$730,000. This phase is funded by the Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage and the Township Pathway Millage.

From the northern end of Phase II on Okemos Rd, users will be able to use the existing 10-foot-wide pathway on the east side of Okemos Road to the inter-urban pathway. The Township widened this half-mile stretch of the Okemos Road pathway for the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail in 2021. Users can then take the existing 1.1-mile inter-urban trail from Okemos Road to Marsh Road.

The Township also announced that it will begin working on the design and engineering of Phase III in 2023. This is the final phase of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail and will provide a trail route from Marsh Road, just south of Haslett Road, all the way to Green Road in the northeast corner of the Township.

“Once all three phases are completed, the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail will provide residents with approximately 6.75 miles of trail system, which will enhance the region’s trail system by connecting to the MSU and Lansing River Trails,” said Township Engineer Younes Ishraidi. “We can’t wait to celebrate the opening of Phases I and II with the community.”

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 517.853.4440 or email dpw@meridian.mi.us.

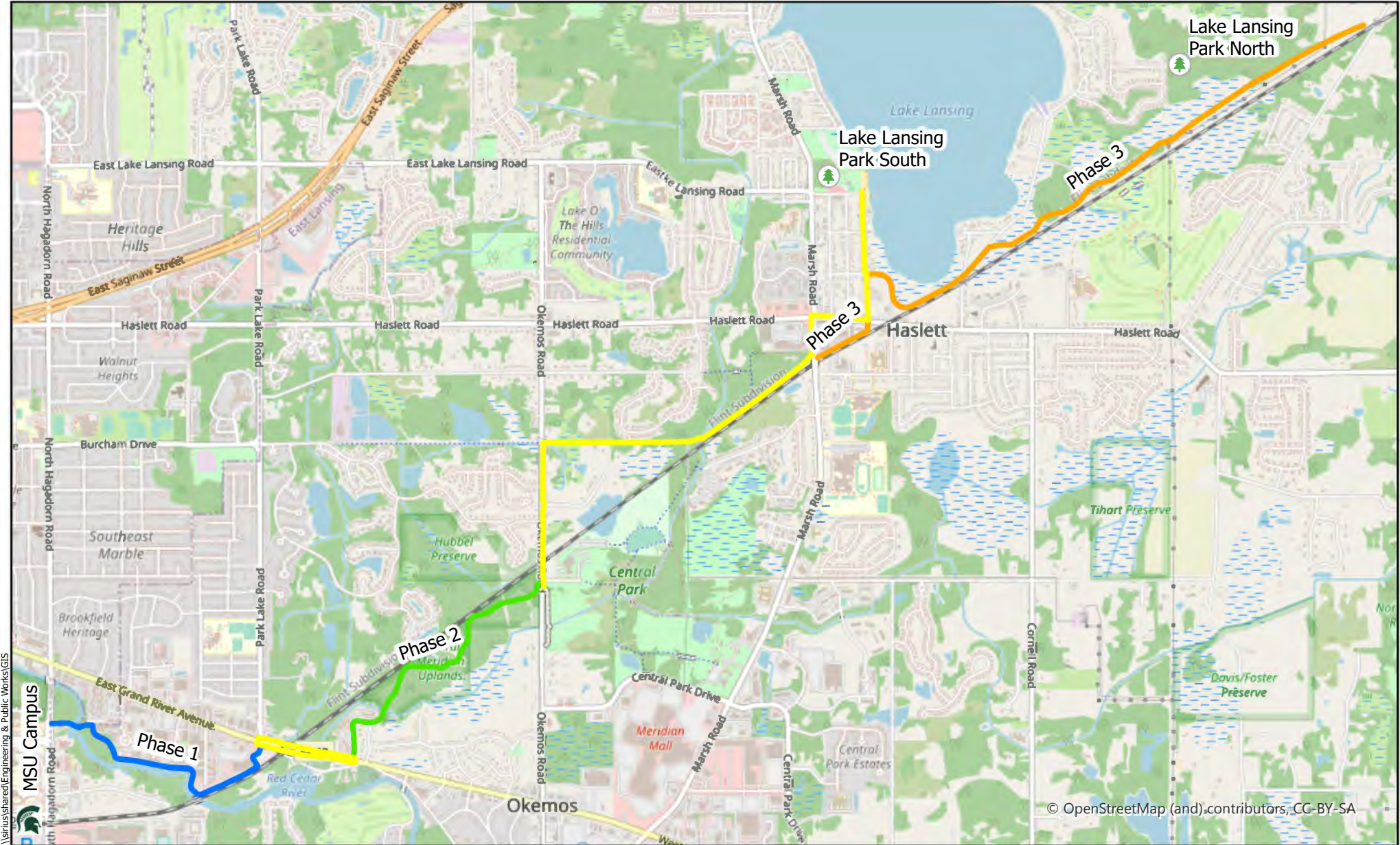
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MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule

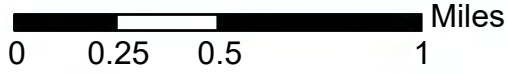


\\sirus\shared\Engineering & Public Works\GIS

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Scale: 1:30,000



- Phase I: Construction anticipated to be completed in July-September of 2023. 1 mile: Begins on the north side of Hagadorn and Shaw Ln Intersection and concludes at the Grand Rive Ave/Park Lake Rd Intersection.
- Phase II: Construction anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023. 1.2 miles: Begins near the Grand River Ave/Campus Hill Dr intersection and concludes near the Okemos Rd & Gaylord Smith Cr intersection.
- Phase III: Design will begin in 2023. Construction timelines will be announced at a later date. 2.3 miles: Begins on Marsh Rd, just south of Haslett Rd, and concludes near Green Rd in the NE corner of the Township.
- Existing trails and pathways that are a part of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail

Questions?
 517.853.4440
 dpw@meridian.mi.us



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN – INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
LEGAL AD NOTICE:
Township Board Public Hearing for Haslett Village Square Commercial
Rehabilitation District No. 1 Exemption Application from SP Holding
Company, LLC
TUESDSAY FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:
Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1
Exemption Application from SP Holding Company, LLC
February 21, 2023**

Notice is hereby given that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in the discussion to authorize by resolution the acceptance of the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Application from SP Holding Company, LLC for properties at 1655 and 1621 Haslett Road within the established Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1 in support of the redevelopment of 19.5 acres.

A development group out of Holland, MI SP HOLDING COMPANY, LLC introduced the request to Meridian Township Staff to utilize PA 210 of 2005 to establish a Commercial Rehabilitation District at 1655 and 1621 Haslett Road. On June 7, 2022, the Meridian Township board by resolution established the Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1. In solidarity the Ingham County Board of Commissioners approved by resolution acceptance of the establishment of the commercial rehabilitation district. To apply for the exemption, an application from the property owner must be submitted to the Township Assessor, Clerk and approved by resolution by the Township Board. SP HOLDING COMPANY is the authorized owners of the property at 1655/1621 Haslett Road. The Township Board must hold a public hearing to grant opportunity for public comment regarding the tax exemption for a 10-year abatement on the value of the buildings. Currently, the project site is underutilized, contains contaminants, and is functionally obsolete since the closing of the L & L grocery store in 2011. The developer proposes about 290 rental units throughout the property with approximately 21,000 square feet of commercial, nonresidential space. The following parcels are included in the proposed project:

1655 Haslett Road; 33-02-02-10-401-008 and 1621 Haslett Road 33-02-02-10-401-009.

Information may be examined at the Department of Economic Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the Township website at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/government/at-your-fingertips/current-applications-before-meridian-township>.



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN – INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
LEGAL AD NOTICE:
Township Board Public Hearing for Haslett Village Square Commercial
Rehabilitation District No. 1 Exemption Application from SP Holding
Company, LLC
TUESDSAY FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to Amber Clark, Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to Clark@meridian.mi.us.

Publish:

**Lansing State Journal
Wednesday February 8, 2023**

**Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk**

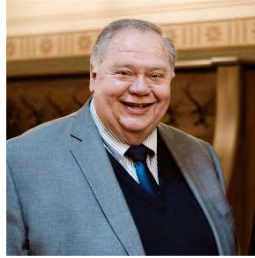
1 Affidavit, please



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 15, 2023

CONTACT: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
517.853.4254 | walsh@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Honors the Late Supervisor Styka
Flags Lowered to Half-Staff on One-Year Anniversary of Ron Styka's Passing



Meridian Township, MI – On February 15, 2022, our community lost a remarkable public servant in Meridian Township Supervisor Ron Styka. On the one-year anniversary of his passing, Meridian Township Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson has ordered that U.S. flags on Township property be lowered to half-staff.

“Ron was a real gentleman. A rare leader who used kindness rather than control. Ron’s contributions to Okemos Public Schools and Meridian Township left a legacy for others to follow. As a community, we are better because of Ron Styka,” said Township Manager Frank L. Walsh.

Ron’s career in public service spanned 32 years. Ron served on the Okemos School Board for 22 years, as a Meridian Township Trustee for 4 years and as Meridian Township Supervisor for 6 years. Styka was a native of Detroit and a proud graduate of Cass Tech High School, the University of Detroit and the University of Michigan Law School.

“I learned so much from serving on the Township Board with Ron Styka,” stated Township Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson. “Ron embodied good governance. His approach was to listen first and put service above self. I am thankful to have had his guidance over the years.”

A devout Catholic, Styka was a founding member of St. Martha Parish in Okemos, where he was a member of the Knights of Columbus as a 4th Degree Knight and served as Grand Knight. Ron passionately taught the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and St. Martha Parish for 20 years.

Please take a moment today and reflect on Supervisor Styka’s unbridled passion for public service and his love for Meridian Township and Okemos Public Schools.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

**LEGAL AD NOTICE: Variance Request 23-03
2292 E. Lake Lansing Road
WEDNESDAY, March 15, 2023**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request 23-03
2292 E. Lake Lansing Road
Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Susan Luks & Edward Clayton. The applicant is proposing to construct a carport that does not meet the front yard setback requirement at 2292 E. Lake Lansing Road. The approximate 2.9-acre subject site is zoned RR (Rural Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development (phone 517-853-4560), 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

**Publish: City Pulse
February 22, 2023**

**Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk**

1 Affidavit, please



11.B

**CONSENT AGENDA
PROPOSED BOARD MINUTES
February 21st, 2023**

PROPOSED MOTION:

- (1) Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7th, 2023 as submitted.**

ALTERNATE MOTION:

- (1) Move to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7th, 2023 with the following amendment(s):
[insert amendments]**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING TOWNSHIP BOARD 2022 **-DRAFT-**
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
TUESDAY, February 07, 2023 **6:00 pm**

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Township Manager Walsh, Fire Chief Hamel, Community Planning and Development Director Schmitt, IT Director Gebes, Communications Manager Diehl, Director of Operations Massie, Finance Director Garber, Deputy Clerk Lemaster, Police Captain Grillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLLCALL

Deputy Clerk Lemaster called the roll of the Board. All board members are present.

4. PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of Penelope Tsernoglou, State Representative, 75th House District

Trustee Wilson introduced State Representative Penelope Tsernoglou to the board.

Representative Tsernoglou spoke about her work for the working class, families, and seniors. She is chairing the Election Committee, and is on the Judiciary Committee, the Criminal Justice committee, and the Housing Sub-Committee. She spoke about changes to elections through proposition two passed in November 2022, and spoke about helping the community through policy and budgetary assistance.

B. Introduction of Simar Pawar, Ingham County Commissioner

Clerk Guthrie introduced County Commissioner Pawar to the board and spoke to Commissioner Pawar's work in the township.

Commissioner Pawar introduced herself to the board and stated she has been a resident of Meridian Township for 30+ years. She spoke of her family and professional background. She spoke about her new responsibilities as a County Commissioner and how seriously she takes this responsibility.

C. Introduction of new HOMTV Interns

Manager Diehl introduced the interns working with HOMTV including Dominic Carroll, Mackenize Dekker, Taeya Wright, and Rachel Pierson.

D. Climate Sustainability Plan-Environmental Commission

Environmental Commissioner McConnell gave a presentation on Climate Sustainability in the township. He spoke about taxes in the township and how those taxes pay for the great services the township provides. He asked the board for feedback on the draft revision of the energy section of the Climate Sustainability Plan. He presented information on current renewable energy, and energy efficiency in the township. He noted significant progress in reaching 100% renewable energy in the township, 33% reduction in greenhouse emissions in the Township Municipal Building, and 27% reduction of emissions in the Public Safety Building. He also spoke about the Department on Energy funded center at Michigan State University that is further assessing township buildings for further potential increases in energy efficiency.

5. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Jackson opened public comment at 6:23 PM.

Jaime Garmo, 400 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham spoke in support of recreational marijuana.

Supervisor Jackson closed public comment at 6:25 PM.

6. TOWNSHIP MANAGER REPORT

Manager Walsh reported the 2022 Annual Report is completed. The Okemos bridge project is moving forward and should be completed in 2-3 weeks. He spoke about the building improvements that will be taking place soon including wallpaper and carpets. The facility will be closed for about 5 months this year as renovations begin. The new municipal signs will be installed in two to three weeks. Phase I of the Lake Lansing to MSU pathway is underway. The township audit will be taking place soon. Police and Fire wages are being addressed. The Senior Center Task Force will have its first meeting February 14th. An additional paramedic crew has been stationed in the south part of the township to address medical responses to Alaiedon Township. The Public Safety building is getting its new locker soon, and a new K-9 unit will be added to the force. The future of the former farmer's market building will be addressed soon. At 6:00 pm on March 7th there will be a meeting of residents, the developers of the Village of Okemos project and the board. The deer cull program for 2022-2023 is complete. He addressed the township's response to a hoax call that took place this morning at Okemos High School. He thanked the board for their decision to increase staff in the area as it allowed a better response.

Supervisor Jackson asked Captain Grillo about the police accreditation.

Captain Grillo replied the Meridian Township Police Department has been reaccredited.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Deschaine

- Attended February 6th Pension Board meeting and reported the Meridian Township pension plan is 100% funded, he noted the Pension Board needs more members
- Attended February 2nd Economic Development Corporation meeting
- Attended Chinese New Year Event at Meridian Mall
- Attended Capital Area Treasurer's Association meeting where discussions were had on reforming disabled veterans property tax exemptions
- Spoke about the press conference covering the Okemos High School hoax call where emergency responders acted efficiently and appropriately

Trustee Hendrickson

- Spoke about the hoax call to Okemos High School and encouraged lawmakers to take action to make schools a safer place

Trustee Wisinski

- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has been working internally on processes and procedures and is now moving forward into public facing actions including Meridian Township's first pride celebration at the end of August 2023
- Thanked the Environmental Commission for their work and presentation of their Climate Sustainability Plan
- Spoke about the hoax call to Okemos High School and noted the law enforcement presence at the school including Meridian Township Police, FBI, ATF, and neighboring communities first responders, and noted busses from Lansing arrived to relocate school children to 2|42 church

Clerk Guthrie

- Thanked emergency services, Manager Walsh, and 2|42 church for their responses to the hoax call to Okemos High School
- Contacted State Representative Julie Brixie about gun safety
- Spoke with State Representative Julie Brixie about speaking at the first Meridian Pride Event
- Attended February 6th Pension Board Meeting
- Attended Capital Area of Municipal Clerks meeting covering proposition two
- Attended Cannabis Regulatory Agency Municipal Summit
- The audit for the November 2022 election took place
- Valley Wings on Jolly Rd. in Okemos has opened for business
- Township Offices will be closed on February 20th in observance of Presidents Day
- Thursday February 16th at 11:00 am new firefighters will be sworn in

Trustee Sundland

- Attended February 2nd Economic Development Corporation meeting where there were talks on a "small business" recognition and promotional program
- March is Women in Business month

Supervisor Jackson

- Attended February 1st meeting with Ingham County Road Department and staff

- Attended February 2nd neighborhood leaders program, led by Captain Grillo
- Attended Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion taskforce meeting
- Attended February 6th Downtown Development Authority meeting where a quorum was not present

8. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Treasurer Deschaine moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

9. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Jackson reviewed the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Wilson asked about the significant increase in earnings as shown in the Treasurer's quarterly report.

Treasurer Deschaine replied there was a large increase in earnings because the Federal Reserve has increased interest rates, some Township reserve funds have been moved from liquid investments to fixed investments, and the continuing excellent financial shape of the township. He thanked manager Walsh for his help with realizing these returns.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with one Amendment to the minutes. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

A. Communications

Trustee Hendrickson moved that the communications not already assigned for disposition be referred to the Township Manager or Supervisor for follow-up. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Minutes- January 24th, 2023 Regular Township Board Minutes

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve and ratify the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 24th, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Bills

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve that the Township Board approve the Manager's Bills as follows: Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Common Cash		\$	658,360.23
Public Works		\$	437,849.70
Trust & Agency		\$	<u>7,013.41</u>
	Total Checks	\$	1,103,223.34
Credit Card Transactions		\$	9,506.62
01/18/23 to 02/01/2023			
	Total Purchases	\$	<u>1,112,729.96</u>
ACH Payments		\$	<u>660,217.64</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

D. Planning Commission Annual Report

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the 2022 Planning Commission Annual Report. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Ratification of New Full-Time EMT/Firefighter Appointments

Trustee Hendrickson moved to authorize the Fire Department to appoint Zachary Silver and Andrew Cummins to Full-Time EMT/Firefighter. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

F. Charitable Gaming License-The You've Got this Project

Trustee Hendrickson moved approval of a request from the "You've Got This" project of Meridian Township, Ingham County, asking that they be recognized as a non-profit Organization operating in the community for the purposes of obtaining a Gaming License for approval, and further that the Township Clerk be authorized to execute the resolution from the State of Michigan. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

G. Set a Public Hearing for Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Act-February 21, 2023

Trustee Hendrickson moved to set the public hearing for the Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Application from SP Holding, LLC to February 21, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

H. Treasurer's Investment Report-4th Quarter 2022

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the Treasurer's Investment Report from the 4th quarter of 2022. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE ATTORNEY-NONE

11. HEARINGS-NONE

12. ACTION ITEMS

A. Set a Date for Study Session-February 28, 2023

Supervisor Jackson outlined setting a date for Study Session.

Trustee Wilson moved to approve a township board study session on February 28, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Township Municipal Building in the Town Hall Room. Seconded by Clerk Guthrie.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item as it will allow the board time to discuss the Sign Ordinance.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Resolution Commemorating Black History Month

Supervisor Jackson outlined the resolution commemorating Black History Month.

Clerk Guthrie moved to approve the resolution commemorating Black History Month. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

Clerk Guthrie offered an amendment by adding Milton Scales' and Supervisor Jackson's years of service on the Planning Commission to the resolution. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Manager Walsh noted Mr. Scales served on the Planning Commission in 2012.

Clerk Guthrie read the resolution honoring Black History Month.

Supervisor Jackson called for a voice vote on the resolution commemorating Black History Month as amended.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

C. Board and Commission Appointments

Supervisor Jackson outlined the Board and Commission Appointments.

Trustee Hendrickson moved to approve the appointment of Graham Diedrich to the Environmental Commission for a term ending 12/31/2025. Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

Trustee Hendrickson spoke in support of this item.

Trustee Wisinski spoke in support of this item.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Trustee Wilson moved that Phyllis Vaughn be appointed as representative to the CATA Board of Directors to fill a vacancy for the term ending September 20, 2025. Seconded by Treasurer Deschaine.

Trustee Wilson spoke in support of this item.

Treasurer Deschaine spoke in support of this item.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

13. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Ordinance 2023-01 – Rezone 1642 Lake Court – RB to RCC, with a Conditional Rezoning Agreement

Director Schmitt outline Ordinance 2023-01, Rezoning 1642 Lake Court RB to RCC with a conditional Rezoning Agreement. He noted the density would be limited to 12 dwelling units and staff has no major concerns with this item.

Trustee Wilson noted the address is 1642 and asked where that is located.

Director Schmitt replied 1642 will be the new address for the parcel, and currently does not exist outside of township records, but that the property is located to the west Marsh Road, between Lake Lansing Road and Lake Court.

Treasurer Deschaine asked if there has been any feedback on the project from the neighbors.

Director Schmitt replied neighbors are happy to see this development.

Treasurer Deschaine asked who the target market for this development is for and what the cost of rent will be.

Applicant Dominic Lee, 2419 Science Parkway, replied the units are to be rented at the market rate, currently between 1600-2200. The target market is an older population and younger professionals.

Applicant Scott Wheaton, 2419 Science Parkway, explained he sees the target market as a wide array of people as this an exciting part of the township with public transportation easily accessible.

Trustee Hendrickson stated this is not an objectionable rezoning. He explained this will remove a blighted building and replace it with a new development.

Trustee Wisinski asked if 12 units means 6 duplexes.

Mr. Wheaton replied that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie asked Director Schmitt about potential issues with meeting setback requirements and the potential of moving this forward as a Planned Unit Development.

Director Schmitt replied developers' engineers are still working on what development path they will have to take, but the applicants will have to meet the ordinance requirements either way.

Clerk Guthrie asked if there will be any changes to Lake Ct.

Director Schmitt replied the Ingham County Road Department will have to make that decision.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the address will be Lake Ct. or Lake Lansing.

Director Schmitt replied there will likely be 6 Lake Ct. addresses and 6 Lake Lansing Rd. addresses.

Trustee Wilson asked if the exit on to Lake Lansing Rd. will be accomplished with one curb cut.

Director Schmitt replied that direction will come from the Ingham County Road Department.

Supervisor Jackson stated this item should come back to the board.

B. Recreational Marijuana Ordinances

Director Schmitt outlined the Recreational Marijuana Ordinance. He noted the overlays at Towner Rd. and Dawn Ave. were removed. Two of the other overlays were reduced as they contained residential developments and new businesses. Staff and Planning Commission recommended prohibition of drive through services and a 2000 ft. buffer from any other licensed premise.

Township Attorney Kuschel further outlined Recreational Marijuana Ordinance, specifically on the licensing side. He mentioned a definition section has been added to the ordinance. He noted there is no language on license transfers at this time, and permits will be issued on an annual basis. He noted the board will decide how the Community Planning and Development Department will handle permit applications. The board will also decide the criteria in the applicant decision process. A public hearing should be held during competitive review of permits. Appeal provisions will be included in the Ordinance. Renewal of applications will be possible should the applicant show consistent service. If the board wants to see every renewal application it can be done. There will be commercial sign restrictions in place. Not adhering to local ordinances can induce penalties limited to a \$500 fine.

Director Schmitt noted he is looking for feedback on several topics including transferring of licenses, the maximum number of licenses, and the possibility of allowing a grow operation in the Hagadorn Road overlay. He added there is an option for Micro Business licenses.

Trustee Sundland asked if there will be a study session to discuss this item.

Supervisor Jackson replied there has not been consideration for a study session at this time.

Treasurer Deschaine stated he would like a study session to cover this topic.

Trustee Wisinski stated it's important to think about how long the board would be prolonging this ordinance.

Clerk Guthrie also would like to hold a study session to discuss this topic.

Trustee Wilson would also like to hold a study session to discuss this topic.

Trustee Hendrickson noted a study session would be helpful, but the township must remain efficient. He asked when a public hearing would take place.

Director Schmitt replied the zoning public hearing already took place.

Township Attorney Kuschel noted a second public hearing does not need to take place, but the board may hold one if desired.

Supervisor Jackson noted this could be brought back as a discussion item as many times as needed, but a study session would be useful. She stated that this should come back as a discussion item until the board has worked through this item.

Clerk Guthrie asked if the board held a study session on the first available session in March the item can come back in the form of discussion.

Manager Walsh noted this could be a discussion item on February 21st and the topic of a study session on February 28th.

Trustee Hendrickson asked how allowing only one grow operation in only one overlay district would not open the township up to lawsuits.

Township Attorney Kuschel replied there is very little economic interest in grow operations and the township has the authority to set the time and place of marijuana establishments.

Trustee Hendrickson thanked staff and the Planning Commission for their work on the overlay map. He asked if overlay three could fit two establishments.

Director Schmitt replied the current applicant in overlay three is on the far eastern end of the district and another could fit in the overlay outside of the 2000 ft. buffer.

Trustee Hendrickson noted he would like to see one establishment per overlay. He asked about the board being involved in the permit renewals, or if that would be purely through administration.

Township Attorney Kuschel replied the renewal policy has not yet been made, but could go either way.

Trustee Hendrickson noted if an applicant has gone through the renewal process with staff they should not have to come to the board for review.

Trustee Hendrickson noted the current text states, "the director may grant final approval to the renewal applications with minor amendments and issue the permit" but has no such language for renewal with major amendments.

Director Schmitt replied the intent is a renewal with a major amendment would have to come back to the board, but this will be more thought out when they get to the competitive review standards.

Trustee Hendrickson asked how the competitive review process would work.

Township Attorney Kuschel explained it could be as simple as setting a number of factors to be scored on, or can be as complex as each board member going through each application individually and compiling an aggregate score. He further explained It could also be accomplished by having Director Schmitt go through an initial review of each applicant and submitting those chosen to a sub-committee who will review again and give recommendations to the Township Board who would then give final approval. He noted the board may be creative in creating this process.

Trustee Hendrickson noted regardless of the ordinance there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the way of policies and standards.

Mr. Kuschel replied that is correct. He noted a policy document can be started and given to the board on the 21st.

Treasurer Deschaine noted the reason applications haven't come in for growing operations as they are zoned as industrial, a zoning that only exists in one overlay. He stated he would like to finish the ordinance before finishing policies.

Trustee Wilson also stated she would like to see no growing operations and only one facility per overlay district. She asked about transfers of ownership being problematic.

Director Schmitt replied many of these groups take on minority partners as they evolve. The current medical ordinance restricts out of township owners from transferring inside of 30 months. He noted this is an area where he would like board feedback.

Trustee Wilson noted right now it appears as if there are no transfers.

Director Schmitt replied at this time that is correct.

Clerk Guthrie asked why there is no curbside service.

Director Schmitt replied the Planning Commission did not want to see business take place outside of the facility.

Mr. Kuschel replied this is in line with the regulation of alcohol.

Clerk Guthrie replied that she can have alcohol delivered to her house, and noted some people have physical restrictions that can make getting out of a car difficult and spoke in support of curbside service.

Mr. Kuschel noted there is no litigation on curbside service at this time to his knowledge.

Clerk Guthrie asked about emission regulation.

Director Schmitt replied tickets may be issued when there is a noticeable odor emanating from a property.

Clerk Guthrie asked why there is a difference between liquor license transfer and recreational marijuana license.

Mr. Kuschel replied this area of litigation is not settled at this time.

Clerk Guthrie asked if liquor licenses are transferred through the state.

Director Schmitt replied that is the case.

Clerk Guthrie stated she would like to see options for license transferability.

Trustee Wisinski asked if medical permit holders will be expected to apply competitively, and if are there options for those permit holders.

Mr. Kuschel replied they would have to apply competitively, but how the competitive review factors evaluate an applicant's history in the township will be left to procedures and standards.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the medical marijuana structure is going to go away.

Mr. Kuschel replied not at this time. He noted the medical market has shrunk by 25% statewide, however the caregiver provisions are still doing well.

Supervisor Jackson asked if the township could require or give advantages to businesses who hold permits for medical and recreational.

Mr. Kuschel replied he would not encourage a requirement to hold both medical and recreational licenses.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Jackson opened Public Remarks at 8:28 pm.

NONE

Supervisor Jackson closed Public Remarks at 8:28 pm.

15. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS-NONE

Supervisor Jackson and Clerk Guthrie thanked the Environmental Commission for their work on the climate sustainability plan.

16. CLOSED SESSION

Treasurer Deschaine moved to go into a closed session for collective bargaining/union negotiations under MCL 15.268(1)(c). Seconded by Trustee Wisinski.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YEAS: Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustee Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski, Supervisor Jackson,

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

At 8:31 pm the board entered into a closed session.

At 9:00 pm the board returned to an open session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Hendrickson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wilson.

VOICE VOTE: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: None

Motion carried: 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

PATRICIA H. JACKSON,
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

DEBORAH GUTHRIE
TOWNSHIP CLERK



9.C

To: Board Members
From: Amanda Garber, Finance Director
Date: February 21, 2023
Re: Board Bills

Charter Township of Meridian
Board Meeting
2/21/2023

MOVED THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE MANAGER'S
BILLS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMON CASH	\$	390,008.87
PUBLIC WORKS	\$	1,822,994.75
TRUST & AGENCY	\$	286.79
TOTAL CHECKS:		\$ 2,213,290.41
CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS		
02/02/2023 - 02/15/2023	\$	10,006.91
TOTAL PURCHASES:		<u>\$ 2,223,297.32</u>
ACH PAYMENTS	\$	<u>932,793.80</u>

02/16/2023 03:39 PM
 User: GRAHAM
 DB: Meridian

INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
 EXP CHECK RUN DATES 02/21/2023 - 02/21/2023
 BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
 BANK CODE: GF - CHECK TYPE: PAPER CHECK

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. 53RD DISTRICT COURT	CASH BOND - AMIE CARPENTER	500.00	108978
2. A T & T	JAN 28 - FEB 27 2022BUSINESS FIBER INTERNET	189.82	108982
3. AIRGAS USA LLC	ORDER #1117723185 - OXYGEN FOR AMBULANCES	145.21	
	01/31/2023 - (OXYGEN FOR AMBULANCES)	563.59	
	01/31/2023 (OXYGEN FOR AMBULANCES)	93.77	
	TOTAL	802.57	
4. ALLGRAPHICS CORP	LOGO WEAR FOR PARKS & RECREATION STAFF	57.00	
5. ALLISON GOODMAN	MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	34.19	
6. AT & T	JAN 2023 - ASE NET - THB - FS91 - 831.000.8214 218	3,763.02	108906
7. AT & T	JAN 2 - FEB 1 2023 - HVAC @THB 517.347.1710 201 4	49.90	
	JAN 2 - FEB 1 2023 - PSB FAX 517 347-4285 924 0	53.50	108983
	JAN 2 - FEB 1 2023 - THB HVAC 517 347.6021 564 8	376.43	108983
	JAN 2 - FEB 1 2023 - PSB FAX 517 347 6826 173 5	52.45	108983
	TOTAL	532.28	
8. AT&T	JAN 2023 - LEGACY TELEPHONE - 517.349.1200	33.85	108907
	FEB 2023 - LEGACY TELEPHONE - 517.349.1200	33.85	
	TOTAL	67.70	
9. BOUNDTREE MEDICAL	ORDER #104248747 - MEDICAL SUPPLIES	24.58	
	ORDER # 104309543 - 2/7/2023 MEDICAL SUPPLIES	1,600.00	
	TOTAL	1,624.58	
10. BRIDGET CANNON	MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	20.17	
11. BS&A SOFTWARE	2/1/2023 - 2/1/2024 - ANNUAL RENEWAL - ALL SYSTEMS	42,269.00	
12. BULL ENTERPRISES	JANITORIAL SERV TWP BLDGS - JAN 2023	8,477.00	
13. CARTEGRAPH	811 INTEGRATION SETUP & SERV THRU 10/31/2023	4,583.33	
14. CDW	POWER SUPPLY FOR EPSON PRINTER	35.06	
15. CEDAR CREEK APARTMENTS	RENT ASSISTANCE - J. RUTLEDGE	520.00	108979
16. CINTAS CORPORATION #725	MOTOR POOL - MECHANICS UNIFORMS 01/05/2023	32.31	
	MOTOR POOL - MECHANICS UNIFORMS 01/12/2023	32.31	
	MOTOR POOL - MECHANICS UNIFORMS 01/18/2023	32.31	
	MOTOR POOL - MECHANICS UNIFORMS 1/25/2023	32.31	
	TOTAL	129.24	
17. CITY PULSE	LEGAL ADS FOR TWP 1/18/2023	112.85	
	LEGAL ADS FOR TWP - 01/25/2023	277.50	
	TOTAL	390.35	
18. COMCAST	FEB 16 2023 TO MAR 15 2023 - FIRE #91 TV + INET	171.85	
19. CONSUMERS ENERGY	PAYMENT REFUND - PM22-0565 - RECEIPT #00083217	65.00	
	PAYMENT REFUND - PM22-0564 - RECEIPT #00083218	65.00	
	TOTAL	130.00	

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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
20. CONWAY SHIELD INC	HELMETS & SHIELDS	1,078.47	
21. CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING	ACCT #5454003 - WATER SOFTENER SALT HNC	48.00	
22. CUMMINS INC	GENERATOR MAINT - FIRE STATION 92 - 2023	589.43	
	GENERATOR MAINT - SERV CNTR - 2023	721.89	
	TOTAL	1,311.32	
23. DELL MARKETING LP	DELL VOSTRO 7510 LAPTOP POWER SUPPLY	693.00	
24. DETROIT SALT CO	GROUNDS AND PARKS - BULK ROCK SALT	2,879.69	
25. FAHEY SCHULTZ BURZYCH RHODES PLC	POLICE DEPT - LEGAL FEES	22.00	
	DDA MATTERS - LEGAL FEES	450.00	
	MARIJUANA REGULATION - LEGAL FEES	4,690.50	
	PUBLIC WORKS - LEGAL FEES	510.00	
	WINSLOW MOBILE HOMES - LEGAL FEES	90.00	
	EYDE-SIERRA RIDGE - LEGAL FEES	562.50	
	ASSOCIATED BLDG CONTRACTORS (PREV WAGE) - LEGAL FE	585.00	
	THE PONDS - LEGAL FEES	1,793.50	
	ASSESSOR - LEGAL FEES	983.84	
	HUMAN RESOURCES/LABOR - LEGAL FEES	4,610.81	
	MANAGER - LEGAL FEES	87.84	
	GFS MARKETPLACE - LEGAL FEES	385.00	
	E & W INV - LEGAL FEES	715.00	
	AUTOZONE DEVELOPMENT - LEGAL FEES	67.50	
	EMPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION - LEGAL FEES	22.50	
	TOTAL	15,575.99	
26. FIRST COMMUNICATIONS	FEB 2023 - ANALOG TELEPHONE LINES-3142216	1,448.84	
27. FLEETPRIDE HEAVY DUTY PARTS&SERVICE	DUMP TRUCK REPAIR PARTS	275.11	
	DUMP TRUCK REPAIR PARTS	16.47	
	TOTAL	291.58	
28. FORESIGHT GROUP	WATER BILLS AND POSTAGE 1/30/2023	1,766.81	
	ENGRAVED NAMEPLATES	40.00	
	NEW PLANNING COMMISSION NAME PLATES	96.00	
	DOGS ON LEASH SIGNS FOR OUTFIELD FENCES IN PARKS	477.50	
	TOTAL	2,380.31	
29. GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC	SEPT 2022 HEALTH INS CONSULTING FEES	2,741.69	108981
30. GENERAL CODE	SUPPLEMENT NO. 14	2,815.17	
31. GRANGER	ACCT #26211200 - HASLETT LIBRARY WASTE DISPOSAL	154.58	
	JAN 2023 - MUN BLDG - RECYCLING DISPOSAL SERVICES	86.96	
	N. FIRE - RUBBISH DISPOSAL SERV	92.04	
	FEB 2023 - GAYLOR C SMITH - RUBBISH DISPOSAL SERV	151.53	
	FEB 2023 - TOWN HALL - RUBBISH DISPOSAL SERV	130.68	
	FEB 2023 - GAYLORD C SMITH - RUBBISH DISPOSAL SERV	166.95	
	FEB 2023 - S FIRE - RUBBISH DISPOSAL SERV	91.65	
	FEB 2023 - C FIRE - RUBBISH DISPOSAL SERV	107.32	
	TOTAL	981.71	
32. H&R ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LLC	LIGHT POLE REPL VEHICLE ACCIDENT - HNC	3,160.00	
33. IMS ALLIANCE	PASSPORT TAGS FOR NEW EMPLOYEES, PROMOTIONS AND NE	130.50	

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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
34. LANDFILL NAVIGATION	WATER RESCUE EQUIP (KENT HEAVING LINE/THROW BAG, R	503.80	
35. LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	ACCT #9020508339 - INTERPRETATION SERVICES	5.25	
36. LANSING SANITARY SUPPLY INC	JAN 2023 - CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	405.60	
	PUBLIC WORKS - CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	198.46	
	TOTAL	604.06	
37. LANSING UNIFORM COMPANY	FIRE UNIFORM ITEMS - D FARHAT	267.40	
	LT R. CARETTI - FIRE UNIFORM ITEMS	412.65	
	FIRE UNIFORM ITEMS - N LAFAYETTE	190.65	
	FIRE UNIFORM ITEMS - T MILLEROV	169.90	
	G ULMAN - FIRE UNIFORM ITEMS	228.80	
	FIRE UNIFORM ITEMS - B HAVILAND	363.70	
	TOTAL	1,633.10	
38. LEAVITT & STARCK EXCAVATING, INC	CONCRETE REPAIR CONTRACTS # 1, 2 AND 4 FOR LRP, WA	39,445.71	
39. LEXISNEXIS RISK DATA MGT LLC	1/1/23 TO 1/31/23 - COMMITMENT INVOICE	200.00	
40. LIFELOC TECHNOLOGIES INC	PBT SUPPLIES	645.00	
41. MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP	FIREFIGHTING FOAM (HCT F500 ENCAPSULATOR AGENT, 5	1,586.70	
42. MANNIK AND SMITH	PROF SERV THRU JAN 27, 2023 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM ENG	71,985.75	
43. MEDICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS OF	JAN 2023 COLLECTION FEE FROM AMBULANCE BILLINGS	9,134.20	
44. MERIDIAN INVESTMENT GROUP LLC	PERF GUAR REFUND - 2785 NORTHWIND DR	15,000.00	
45. MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING	BRIAN SHORKEY - TRANSPORTATION BONANZA REGISTRATIO	55.00	
46. MIDWEST TREE SERVICE	2022 - TREE REMOVAL FOR WEST WELCOME SIGN	1,564.69	
	2023 - TREE REMOVAL FOR WEST WELCOME SIGN	635.81	
	TREE REMOVAL AT OTTAWA HILLS PARKS	2,466.00	
	TREE REMOVAL & LANDSCAPING CONTRACT FOR PATHWAY FO	4,039.00	
	TOTAL	8,705.50	
47. MIKE DEVLIN	REIMB - HYRA BASKETBALL SUPPLIES	45.96	
48. MML WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND	7/1/2022 TO 7/1/2023	27,039.70	
49. MOSQUITO SQUAD OF GREATER LANSING	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - TOWN HALL	1,316.52	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS N. MOORE PARK	2,232.00	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS SERV CENTER	426.18	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS AT CENTRAL FI	898.96	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS HARTRICK PARK	2,232.00	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS MARKETPLACE	426.18	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS AT HIST VILLA	1,863.00	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS LARGE DOG PAR	1,134.32	
	2023 MOSQUITO CONTROL - 8 TREATMENTS C. PARK	1,629.30	
	TOTAL	12,158.46	
50. ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	CHAIR SAMPLE FOR TOWN HALL ROOM	779.98	
51. OHM ADVISORS	PROF SERV THRU JAN 21 2023 - RAILROAD QUIET ZONE P	1,558.50	
52. OKEMOS COMMUNITY CHURCH	POLLING LOCATION RENTAL - NOV 2022	400.00	
53. PEOPLEFACTS LLC	JAN 2023 EMPLOYEE PRE-EMPLOYMENT CREDIT CHECKS	44.27	

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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
54. PHOENIX SAFETY OUTFITTERS	FLIR LI-ION BATTERIES	414.07	
55. PITNEY BOWES BANK INC RESERVE ACCT	RESERVE ACCOUNT POSTAGE METER REFILL	10,000.00	108980
56. PRINT MAKERS SERVICE INC	BOND PAPER AND TONER	835.30	
57. PROGRESSIVE AE	PROF SERV THRU JAN 27, 2023 LAKE LANSING WATERSHED	2,268.25	
58. PRO-TECH MECHANICAL SERVICES	W/O #43098 - HVAC REPAIRS - 2ND FLOOR SERVER ROOM	270.00	
59. QUALITY TIRE INC	MOTOR POOL TIRES - 9 DISPOSAL/4 LIGHT TRUCK	47.00	
	MOTOR POOL TIRES - 4 DISPOSAL	16.00	
	CREDIT TIRES - DIDN'T INV STATE CONTRACT PRICING	(1,756.84)	
	TIRES - FSTONE 8 TRANSFORCE & 2 FHAWK PURSUIT	1,322.96	
	TOTAL	(370.88)	
60. RANDALL WADE	2023 ANNUAL BOOT REIMBURSEMENT	175.00	
61. RAPID FLUSH	FEB 2023 - PUMP OUT PIT TOILETS AT HNC	375.00	
62. SPARROW OCCUPATIONAL	JAN 2023 EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS	580.00	
63. STAPLES	OFFICE SUPPLIES - DET 27066262	432.09	
64. SUNBELT RENTALS, INC	FLOOR SCRUBBER RENTAL 2X PER MONTH FOR MARKETPLACE	250.47	
65. TEAM FINANCIAL GROUP	COPIER CONTRACT FEB 2023	2,649.47	
66. THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON	BOND INTERST & PRINCIPAL/TAS/IMMS#533526	250.00	
67. THE CASPER CORPORATION	LOCKER ROOM LOCKERS FOR MEN'S ROOM	37,012.12	
	LOCKER ROOM LOCKERS FOR LADIES ROOM	17,039.36	
	TOTAL	54,051.48	
68. TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING	2023 ANNUAL DUES FOR 1/1/23 TO 9/30/23 (9-MONTH PE	4,438.25	
69. UNIQUE INTERIORS	CONFERENCE ROOM SAMPLE PAINT/WALLPAPER REMOVAL	1,456.00	
70. VARIPRO BENEFIT ADMINISTRATORS	MARCH 2023 MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT	14,334.79	
71. VERIZON CONNECT NWF INC	GPS DIAGNOSTICS - VEHICLE DATA UPLINK - MERI007	604.60	
	01/01/23 - 01/31/23 - VEHICLE DATA UPLINK - MERI00	1,311.39	
	TOTAL	1,915.99	
72. VERIZON WIRELESS	DEC 24 2022 TO DEC 31 2022 - WIRELESS SERVICES	772.52	108984
	JAN 1 2023 - JAN 23 2023 - WIRELESS MOBILE SERVICE	2,220.98	108984
	TOTAL	2,993.50	
73. WAGE WORKS INC	1/1/2023 - 1/31/2023 - COBRA ADMINISTRATION FEES	93.00	
74. WASTE MANAGEMENT	2/01/23 - 2/28/23 - GAYLORD C SMITH - CUST ID# 22-	451.00	
75. WEST SHORE FIRE INC	SCBA FILL STATION REPAIR	527.38	
76. ZOLL MEDICAL CORP	ORDER #2888144 - LIMB LEAD ECG CABLES (MEDICAL SUP	254.34	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		390,008.87	

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Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. BAKER, GARY J & KATHLEEN R	OVREMT FINAL WATER - JODO-005142-0000-13	19.75	
2. CAPITAL ASPHALT LLC	PARK LAKE RD ASPHALT REPAIRS - JAN 23 WATER MAIN B	16,500.00	
3. CARL SCHLEGEL INC	WATER - SAND - 1/20/23 & 1/23/23	2,440.00	
4. CARTEGRAPH	ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING COURSE	2,000.00	
5. CITY OF EAST LANSING	SEWER DEBT BILLING	1,458,327.00	
	FEB 2023 - ELMWSA OPERATING & INTERCONNECT & DEBT	297,403.75	
	TOTAL	1,755,730.75	
6. CUMMINS INC	GENERATOR MAINT - MEADOWS - 2023	582.36	
7. DAVID & CATHIE MYERS	REIMB PERF GUAR - 419 HASLETT RD	2,000.00	
8. EJ USA, INC.	WATER - FIRE HYDRANTS AND PARTS	1,147.82	
	WATER - FIRE HYDRANTS AND PARTS	13,386.88	
	FIRE HYDRANTS AND PARTS	315.25	
	TOTAL	14,849.95	
9. FERGUSON WATERWORKS #3386	WATER - CUSTOMER INSTALL PARTS	37.24	
10. GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES, INC	SEPT 2022 HEALTH INS CONSULTING FEES	508.31	29250
11. GREGG'S WOOD PRODUCTS	WOODEN STAKES - WATER - WOODEN LATHE	285.00	
12. INGHAM COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT	NOV 2022 COLD PATCH	531.42	
	2023 COLD PATCH FOR WATER MAIN BREAK REPAIRS	484.40	
	TOTAL	1,015.82	
13. JOHN HOLDING LLC	ACCOUNT CLOSED - FINAL BALANCE ON ACCT	10.00	
14. KENNEDY INDUSTRIES INC	TOSHIBA FLOWMETER MAIN LIFT STATION	13,801.00	
	TOSHIBA CABLES	300.00	
	SEWER - MAIN LIFT STATION - PUMP 3 OVERHEATING 202	562.50	
	FIELD SERVICE FOR MAIN LIFT STATION	2,300.00	
	TOTAL	16,963.50	
15. LEAVITT & STARCK EXCAVATING, INC	CONCRETE REPAIR CONTRACTS # 1, 2 AND 4 FOR LRP, WA	5,061.03	
16. MML WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND	POLICY 35000880-22 - 7/1/2022 TO 7/1/2023	2,886.30	
17. PREMIER SAFETY	WATER/SEWER - AIR MONITOR CALIBRATION FOR CONFINED	246.68	
18. ROGER NIELSEN	SEWER LATERAL REPAIR AT 1060 HASLETT RD (VETERANS	1,403.21	
19. VERIZON WIRELESS	DEC 24 2022 TO DEC 31 2022 - WIRELESS SERVICES	117.38	29251
	JAN 1 2023 - JAN 23 2023 - WIRELESS MOBILE SERVICE	337.47	29251
	TOTAL	454.85	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		1,822,994.75	

02/16/2023 03:40 PM
User: GRAHAM
DB: Meridian

INVOICE APPROVAL BY INVOICE REPORT FOR CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
EXP CHECK RUN DATES 02/21/2023 - 02/21/2023
BOTH JOURNALIZED AND UNJOURNALIZED OPEN AND PAID
BANK CODE: TA - CHECK TYPE: PAPER CHECK

Vendor Name	Description	Amount	Check #
1. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BROWNFIELD	DPP PAYOUT 01/16/23 TO 01/31/23	106.79	13385
2. STATE OF MICHIGAN	SOR FEES - CUST ID #10396	180.00	
TOTAL - ALL VENDORS		286.79	

Credit Card Report 2/2/2023-2/15/2023

Posting Date	Merchant Name	Amount	Name
2023/02/02	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$343.93	ROBERT STACY
2023/02/02	THE UPS STORE 811	\$18.98	JACOB FLANNERY
2023/02/02	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$40.97	JACOB FLANNERY
2023/02/02	MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASS	\$55.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/02	SOLDAN S PET SUPPLIES	\$82.10	ALLISON GOODMAN
2023/02/03	COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE	\$37.44	RUDY GONZALES
2023/02/03	CATHEY CO	\$12.28	JACOB FLANNERY
2023/02/03	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$13.98	JACOB FLANNERY
2023/02/03	KENDALL ELECTRIC INC	\$628.65	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2023/02/03	AMAZON.COM*OT1N18LP3	\$223.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2023/02/03	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$182.61	DAN PALACIOS
2023/02/03	AMZN MKTP US*QQ6KE5PL3	\$53.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/03	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$7.96	CATHERINE ADAMS
2023/02/03	CITY OF LANSING, MI	\$0.75	ED BESONEN
2023/02/06	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$29.98	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/06	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$21.94	TYLER KENNEL
2023/02/06	GFS STORE #1901	\$42.73	RYAN CAMPBELL
2023/02/06	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$14.25	RYAN CAMPBELL
2023/02/06	HOLIDAY INN GRAND RAPIDS	\$319.70	FRANK L WALSH
2023/02/06	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$19.90	RICHARD GRILLO
2023/02/06	IN *MICHIGAN RURAL WATER	\$360.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2023/02/06	GRAND TRAV RESORT	\$129.00	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2023/02/06	CATHEY CO	\$197.72	DAN PALACIOS
2023/02/06	CATHEY CO	\$3.30	DAN PALACIOS
2023/02/06	CATHEY CO	\$54.84	DAN PALACIOS
2023/02/06	MORNING STAR PUBLISHING	\$14.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/06	AMZN MKTP US*HK4111D43	\$27.91	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/06	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$11.74	CATHERINE ADAMS
2023/02/06	MEIJER # 025	\$33.24	BART CRANE
2023/02/07	TRACTOR SUPPLY #1149	\$4.49	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/07	STATE OF MI EMS	\$25.00	TIMOTHY BOOMS
2023/02/07	MIDWEST POWER EQUIPMENT	\$27.42	KEITH HEWITT
2023/02/07	MIDWEST POWER EQUIPMENT	\$23.08	KEITH HEWITT
2023/02/07	AMZN MKTP US*900TA2823	\$167.92	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/08	LANSING CENTER LOTS TIBA	\$10.00	TYLER KENNEL
2023/02/08	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$21.74	TYLER KENNEL
2023/02/08	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPT#3379	\$15.99	RUDY GONZALES
2023/02/08	LANSING CENTER LOTS TIBA	\$10.00	JACOB FLANNERY
2023/02/08	GRAINGER	\$860.36	ROBERT MACKENZIE
2023/02/08	AMZN MKTP US*X26QX2KO3	\$23.98	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/08	SOLDAN S PET SUPPLIES	\$14.12	CATHERINE ADAMS
2023/02/08	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$65.46	BART CRANE
2023/02/08	WHITEPAGES	(\$4.99)	PHIL DESCHAINE
2023/02/08	WHITEPAGES	\$4.99	PHIL DESCHAINE
2023/02/08	WHITEPAGES	\$29.99	PHIL DESCHAINE
2023/02/08	TOM'S FOOD	\$3.99	ALLISON GOODMAN
2023/02/09	HASLETT TRUE VALUE HARDW	\$23.27	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/09	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$233.54	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/09	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$234.82	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/09	LANSING CENTER LOTS TIBA	\$10.00	TYLER KENNEL
2023/02/09	FEDEX OFFIC40600004069	\$60.00	RYAN CAMPBELL
2023/02/09	OFFICEMAX/OFFICEDEPT#3379	(\$15.99)	RUDY GONZALES

2023/02/09	ZS BAR	\$17.00	KEN PLAGA
2023/02/09	3986 ALL-PHASE	\$22.86	KEITH HEWITT
2023/02/09	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$121.43	KEITH HEWITT
2023/02/09	MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASS	\$75.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/09	CITY OF LANSING, MI	\$1.65	ED BESONEN
2023/02/09	IN *NATL ASSN OF TELECOMM	\$920.00	SAMANTHA DIEHL
2023/02/10	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	(\$14.98)	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/10	HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS 157	\$55.97	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/10	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$166.98	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/10	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$14.98	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/10	FEDEX OFFIC40600004069	(\$9.00)	RYAN CAMPBELL
2023/02/10	MI STATE POLICE PMTS	\$485.00	ANDREW MCCREADY
2023/02/10	AMWAY GRAND PLAZA PARKING	\$12.00	RICHARD GRILLO
2023/02/10	SUNDANCE GRILL OTTAWA A	\$20.38	KEN PLAGA
2023/02/10	3986 ALL-PHASE	\$278.98	KEITH HEWITT
2023/02/10	CITY OF LANSING, MI	\$0.75	ED BESONEN
2023/02/10	THE HOME DEPOT #2723	\$20.87	DAVID LESTER
2023/02/13	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$91.11	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/13	THE HOME DEPOT 2723	\$227.58	LAWRENCE BOBB
2023/02/13	FEDEX OFFIC40600004069	\$38.23	MICHAEL HAMEL
2023/02/13	COVERT SCOUTING	\$25.98	ANDREW MCCREADY
2023/02/13	LUCKY'S STEAKHOUSE - OKEM	\$43.48	FRANK L WALSH
2023/02/13	SNAPON TOOLS	(\$28.50)	TODD FRANK
2023/02/13	GFS STORE #1901	\$79.11	LUANN MAISNER
2023/02/13	TST* MAINSTREET VENTURES	\$22.52	KEN PLAGA
2023/02/13	BURGER KING #8733	\$14.91	KEN PLAGA
2023/02/13	AMWAY GRAND PLAZA HOTE	\$712.20	KEN PLAGA
2023/02/13	AMZN MKTP US*DS98B4AS3	\$48.89	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/13	AMZN MKTP US*7U3ID7C33	\$80.97	CATHERINE ADAMS
2023/02/13	IN *NATL ASSN OF TELECOMM	\$50.00	SAMANTHA DIEHL
2023/02/14	BED BATH & BEYOND #369	\$309.43	TIMOTHY BOOMS
2023/02/15	3986 ALL-PHASE	\$640.69	TYLER KENNELL
2023/02/15	LUCKY'S STEAKHOUSE - OKEM	\$32.00	FRANK L WALSH
2023/02/15	HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS 157	\$233.76	LUANN MAISNER
2023/02/15	PAYPAL *UNIVERSITYM	\$75.00	LUANN MAISNER
2023/02/15	AMZN MKTP US*HE40H5ES1	\$17.60	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/15	AMZN MKTP US*HE7S65041	\$20.00	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/15	TRAVERSE CITY RECORD EAGL	\$17.99	MICHELLE PRINZ
2023/02/15	AMZN MKTP US*HE1Q31R30	\$59.98	CATHERINE ADAMS
2023/02/15	AMZN MKTP US*HE55M5JP2	\$56.20	CATHERINE ADAMS
2023/02/15	CITY OF LANSING, MI	\$0.75	ED BESONEN
2023/02/15	CAPITOL MACINTOSH	\$102.96	SAMANTHA DIEHL
2023/02/15	SOLDAN S PET SUPPLIES	\$14.12	ALLISON GOODMAN

Total	\$10,006.91
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ACH Transactions

Date	Payee	Amount	Purpose
2/3/2023	Consumers Energy	\$ 2,622.79	Utilities
2/3/2023	Alerus	\$ 7,280.04	Employee Health Insurance
2/6/2023	MERS	\$ 306,664.94	Employee Retirement
2/8/2023	Inv Cloud	\$ 1,804.50	Utility Transaction Fees
2/8/2023	Blue Care Network	\$ 34,621.36	Employee Health Insurance
2/9/2023	ICMA	\$ 47,727.83	Payroll Deductions 02/10/2023
2/10/2023	Nationwide	\$ 7,299.00	Payroll Deductions 02/10/2023
2/10/2023	Various Financial Institutions	\$ 321,095.99	Direct Deposit 02/10/2023
2/10/2023	IRS	\$ 114,241.11	Payroll Taxes 02/10/2023
2/13/2023	Consumers Energy	\$ 65,920.85	Utilities
2/13/2023	MCT Utilities	\$ 759.15	Water/Sewer
2/13/2023	Delta Dental	\$ 14,508.90	Employee Dental Insurance
2/15/2023	Blue Care Network	\$ 8,247.34	Employee Health Insurance
Total ACH Payments		\$ 932,793.80	

REIMBURSEMENT TO TOWNSHIP:

Date	Employee Name	Amount	Summary of Reimbursement	Transaction Reimbursed
1/25/2023	Mike Ellis	\$1.02	Reimb Sales Tax - Dinner from Miss Dig conference on 01/17/2023 - Total cost \$21.47	Sales Tax - \$1.02
1/11/2023	Frank Walsh	\$10.49	Reimb - Lunch Meeting with George Lahanas. Allowed \$32.00, total bill was \$42.49 with sales tax of \$2.01	Sales Tax \$2.01 and overage for lunch meal \$8.49
1/13/2023	Frank Walsh	\$3.86	Reimb - Lunch meeting with City of East Lansing. Allowed \$16.00	Overage on lunch \$3.86



To: Board Members

From: Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager
Director of Public Works and Engineering

Date: February 21, 2023

Re: Letter of Support for American Airlines Slot Exemption – Docket Number
FAA-2015-3491-0424

The Board requested a letter be added to your agenda that would request the appropriate agencies to extend American Airlines' slot exemption for nonstop daily service between the Capital Region International Airport (LAN) in Lansing, Michigan and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Washington, D.C. This air service is of vital importance to Meridian Township's economic infrastructure, and to the entire mid-Michigan region.

As the only daily flight between Michigan's capital and the nation's capital, many people throughout our greater capital region rely on this service to reach Washington, D.C. on a regular basis. Without American's exemption, those traveling between mid-Michigan and Washington, D.C. will be denied nonstop service beginning October 2023, and will be forced to fly less preferable and more time-consuming alternatives. Lansing region businesses have worked on multiple occasions to obtain and then preserve LAN-DCA service, as LAN's only nonstop flight to any of the three Washington area airports.

American started service between LAN and DCA on July 5, 2016. Today, American is LAN's number one airline. Even as business travel has lagged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington, D.C. has historically been Lansing's number one booked market, and load factors continue to see improvement as business travel resumes and our regional economy continues to rebound.

Additionally, the service to DCA also resulted in American adding nonstop service from LAN to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), giving travelers additional options and connection opportunities – with more than 100 domestic and 25 international destinations available from ORD, and 50 domestic destinations available from DCA. The relative connectivity American provides through these hubs to mid-Michigan residents both to the East Coast (via DCA) and West Coast (via ORD) is vitally important to both LAN and our greater capital region.

The following motion has been prepared for Board consideration:

MOVE TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO TRANSMIT SIGNED COPIES OF THE ATTACHED LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 21, 2023, ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG AND ACTING FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATOR BILLY NOLEN.

Attachment: Letter of Support for American Airlines Slot Exemption – Docket Number FAA-2015-3491-0424



Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000
F 517.853.4096

Township Board:

Patricia Herring Jackson
Township Supervisor

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

Scott Hendrickson
Township Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Marna Wilson
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager

February 21, 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation
Attn: Secretary Pete Buttigieg
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Federal Aviation Administration Office of the Associate Administrator for Airports (ARP)
Attn: Acting Administrator Billy Nolen
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

RE: American Airlines Slot Exemption – Docket Number FAA-2015-3491-0424

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Acting Administrator Nolen:

We are writing to respectfully urge your agencies to extend American Airlines' slot exemption for nonstop daily service between the Capital Region International Airport (LAN) in Lansing, Michigan and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Washington, D.C. This air service is of vital importance to Meridian Township's economic infrastructure, and to the entire mid-Michigan region.

As the only daily flight between Michigan's capital and the nation's capital, many people throughout our greater capital region rely on this service to reach Washington, D.C. on a regular basis. Without American's exemption, those traveling between mid-Michigan and Washington, D.C. will be denied nonstop service beginning October 2023, and will be forced to fly less preferable and more time-consuming alternatives. Lansing region businesses have worked on multiple occasions to obtain and then preserve LAN-DCA service, as LAN's only nonstop flight to any of the three Washington area airports.

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Additionally, the service to DCA also resulted in American adding nonstop service from LAN to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), giving travelers additional options and connection opportunities – with more than 100 domestic and 25 international destinations available from ORD, and 50 domestic destinations available from DCA. The relative connectivity American provides through these hubs to mid-Michigan residents both to the East Coast (via DCA) and West Coast (via ORD) is vitally important to both LAN and our greater capital region.



As Michigan's state capital and seat of state government, the home of Michigan State University, the insurance capital of Michigan, and the center of more than 400 state associations, the greater Lansing business community views convenient air service to D.C. as essential. The annual economic impact of American's LAN-DCA service is nearly \$12 million. Obviously, the loss of this air service would have a major negative impact on those in mid-Michigan.

We can attest with confidence to the benefits of maintaining these flights. Extending American Airlines' service is a true "win-win-win" opportunity that will continue to help create and retain jobs in Michigan, grow our economy, and ensure that the Lansing region remains a cornerstone of mid-Michigan's development strategies.

We respectfully request the DOT and FAA to approve American Airlines' application for an extension of Exemption No. 15867 that will allow American to continue serving the DCA-LAN market until Oct. 28, 2028.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Patricia Herring Jackson
Township Supervisor

Scott Hendrickson
Township Trustee

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

Marna Wilson
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee



13A & 15B

To: Meridian Township Board Members
From: Neighborhoods & Economic Development Director Amber Clark
Date: February 21, 2023
RE: Haslett Village Square - Commercial Rehabilitation Exmption
Application Public Hearing & Discussion

Summary

1655/1621 is an established CRA in Meridian Township designated the “Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1”. Meridian Township staff received the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption application from SP HOLDING COMPANY LLC, in early August to complete the approval process for a CRA. The application was sent to the Township Assessor for their review of the current taxable and State Equalized values. The project has not started to make improvements yet and if the application is submitted to the State Tax Commission prior to October 31, 2022, there is strong reasoning the exemption will be certified. Today we will hold a public hearing considering the adoption of a resolution in support of the exemption application. Once the Board adopts the resolution, the application, resolution and narrative can be submitted by the Clerk to the State Tax Commission. The STC will authorize the creation of a certificate acknowledging the exemption. Copies will be submitted to the Clerk and Township Assessor for annual review and reporting.

History

1655 & 1621 also known as “Haslett Village Square” comprise the southwest block of the Haslett and Marsh road intersections. This portion of the designated “Haslett Potential Intensity Change Area (PICA)”, is proposed by SP Holding Company LLC, as a mixed use planned unit redevelopment. Two nonresidential buildings are proposed to sit along Haslett road with a mix of residential unit sizes and Townhomes to the south. About 21,000 sq. ft. of nonresidential space is proposed with a portion of that as a public community hub. The MUPUD concept was approved by the Township Board August 7th, 2022. The currently the complex area is 99% vacant with Fringe Hair Design and Little Caesars Pizza as the only two functioning businesses in the complex. After the close of the L & L in 2011 the complex has seen a decline in vacancy each year. For several recent years the taxable value has been reduced due to the lack of use of the complex, and currently sits at a 6 figure taxable value. The annual taxable income received equates to less than \$80,000 annually. The proposed redevelopment will reverse the downward trend in value of the site and provide our community with active public space, public park amenity and retail space.



The established commercial rehabilitation district allows for the Township to place a freeze on the current annual tax bill for the value of the buildings for no more than 10 years. This freeze on the value will still require an annual payment of taxes on the property by the developer, however the improvements made to the property would not trigger an increase in value until the end of the 10 year period.

Meridian Township staff received the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption application in early August. The application was sent to the Township Assessor for their review of the current taxable and State Equalized values. The project has not started to make improvements yet and if the application is submitted to the State Tax Commission prior to October 31, 2022, there is strong reasoning the exemption will be certified. Today we will hold a public hearing considering the adoption of a resolution in support of the exemption application. Once the Board adopts the resolution, the application, resolution and narrative can be submitted by the Clerk to the State Tax Commission. The STC will authorize the creation of a certificate acknowledging the exemption. Copies will be submitted to the Clerk and Township Assessor for annual review and reporting.

Budgetary Considerations

The taxable value of the property currently rests in mid six figure range. The underutilized level of the complex drives up the obsolescence of the site. If the site were to remain in its current state, after 20 years the Township will share about \$1.6M with the 7 tax authorities. If the Board were to approve the 10 year Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption and a Brownfield plan, after 20 years the Township would share about \$13M with the 7 tax jurisdictions. The proposal for support of redevelopment can be seen based on the overall future value of the property. The development incentives chosen by this developer are performance based. Both the Brownfield and Commercial Exemption are related to the work and investment produced by the developer. There are no requests at this time from the developer for upfront costs. The request from the developer to the Township at this time is to work administratively to allow for the exemption to put the funding into the development.

Township Board Action: Move to adopt the attached resolution approving the application from SP HOLDING COMPANY LLC, for the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption for 10 years within the established Commercial Rehabilitation District 1655/1621 Haslett Road.

Attachments:

Resolution Adopting Commercial Rehabilitation District Exemption Application
Commercial Rehabilitation Application
Proposed Development Timeline



**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION
EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE APPLICATION, PA 210 OF 2005, AS
AMENDED, HASLETT VILLAGE SQUARE COMMERCIAL
REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO. 1**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Meridian Charter Township, held on February 21, 2023 Meridian Township Hall in Township Hall Room at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following preamble and resolution were offered by _____, and supported by_____.

Approving Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate Application for SP Holding Company, LLC, Located at 1655 and 1621 Haslett Road

WHEREAS, Meridian Charter Township legally established the HASLETT VILLAGE SQUARE COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO. 1 on June 7, 2022, after a public hearing held on June 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the taxable value of the property proposed to be exempt plus the aggregate taxable value of property previously exempt and currently in force under Public Act 210 of 2005 or under Public Act 198 of 1974 (IFT's) does not exceed 5% of the total taxable value of Meridian Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the application was approved at a public hearing as provided by section 4(2) of Public Act 210 of 2005 on February 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the applicant SP Holding Company, LLC is not delinquent in any taxes related to the facility; and

WHEREAS, the application was approved for 10 years and no additional opportunities for extending the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the application is for commercial property as defined in section 2(a) of Public Act 210 of 2005; and

WHEREAS, the applicant SP Holding Company, LLC has provided answers to all required questions under the application instructions to Meridian Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Charter Township requires that rehabilitation of the facility shall be completed by 2028; and



WHEREAS, the commencement of the rehabilitation of the facility did not occur more than six months prior to the filing of the application for exemption; and

WHEREAS, the application relates to a rehabilitation program that when completed constitutes a qualified facility within the meaning of Public Act 210 of 2005 and that is situated within a Commercial Rehabilitation District established under Public Act 210 of 2005; and

WHEREAS, completion of the qualified facility is calculated to, and will at the time of issuance of the certificate, have the reasonable likelihood to, increase commercial activity, create employment, retain employment, prevent a loss of employment, revitalize urban areas, and increase the number of residents in the community in which the facility is situated; and

WHEREAS, the rehabilitation includes improvements aggregating 10% or more of the true cash value of the property at commencement of the rehabilitation as provided by section 2(j) of Public Act 210 of 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of Meridian Charter Township

Be and hereby is granted a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption for the real property, excluding land, located in Commercial Rehabilitation District, Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1 at 1655 and 1621 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840, for a period of 10 years, beginning December 31, 2023, and ending December 30, 2033 pursuant to The provisions of PA 210 of 2005, as amended.

AYES:

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Clerk Deborah Guthrie

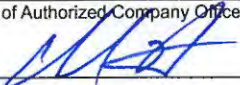
I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of the Meridian Charter Township, County of Ingham, Michigan at a regular meeting held on February 21st, 2023.

Application for Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate

Issued under authority of Public Act 210 of 2005, as amended.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT USE ONLY	
▶ Application No.	▶ Date Received
STATE USE ONLY	
▶ Application No.	▶ Date Received

Read the instructions page before completing the form. **This application should be filed after the commercial rehabilitation district is established.** The applicant must complete Parts 1, 2 and 3 and file the application form (with required attachments) with the clerk of the local governmental unit (LGU). Attach the legal description of property on a separate sheet. This project will not receive tax benefits until approved by the State Tax Commission (STC). Applications received after October 31 may not be acted upon in the current year. This application is subject to audit by the STC.

PART 1: OWNER / APPLICANT INFORMATION (applicant must complete all fields)			
Applicant (Company) Name (applicant must be the owner of the facility) SP Holdings, LLC			NAICS or SIC Code
Facility's Street Address 1621 & 1655 Haslett Road	City Haslett (Meridian Twp.)	State MI	ZIP Code 48840
Name of City, Township or Village (taxing authority) Meridian Charter Township	County Ingham	School District Where Facility is Located Haslett (33060)	
<input type="checkbox"/> City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village			
Date of Rehabilitation Commencement (mm/dd/yyyy) 03/01/2023	Planned Date of Rehabilitation Completion (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/31/2028		
Estimated Cost of Rehabilitation \$60,000,000	Number of Years Exemption Requested (1-10) 10		
Expected Project Outcomes (check all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Commercial Activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain Employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revitalize Urban Areas	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent Loss of Employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Number of Residents in Facility's Community	
No. of jobs to be created due to facility's rehabilitation	No. of jobs to be retained due to facility's rehabilitation	No. of construction jobs to be created during rehabilitation	
PART 2: APPLICATION DOCUMENTS			
Prepare and attach the following items:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General description of the facility (year built, original use, most recent use, number of stories, square footage)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statement of the economic advantages expected from the exemption		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of the qualified facility's proposed use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal description		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of the general nature and extent of the rehabilitation to be undertaken	<input type="checkbox"/> Description of the "underserved area" (Qualified Retail Food Establishments only)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Descriptive list of the fixed building equipment that will be a part of the qualified facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate for Qualified Retail Food Establishments (Form 4753) (Qualified Retail Food Establishments only)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time schedule for undertaking and completing the facility's rehabilitation			
PART 3: APPLICANT CERTIFICATION			
Name of Authorized Company Officer (no authorized agents) Chad Koster	Telephone Number (616) 437-7202		
Fax Number	E-mail Address CHAD.KOSTER@PARAMOUNTRP.COM		
Street Address 940 Floral Ave SE	City Grand Rapids	State MI	ZIP Code 49506
I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein and in the attachments is truly descriptive of the property for which this application is being submitted. Further, I am familiar with the provisions of Public Act 210 of 2005, as amended, and to the best of my knowledge the company has complied or will be able to comply with all of the requirements thereof which are prerequisite to the approval of the application by the local governmental unit and the issuance of a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate by the State Tax Commission.			
I further certify that this rehabilitation program, when completed, will constitute a rehabilitated facility, as defined by Public Act 210 of 2005, as amended, and that the rehabilitation of this facility would not have been undertaken without my receipt of the exemption certificate.			
Signature of Authorized Company Officer (no authorized agents) 	Title MEMBER	Date 2/2/2023	

PART 4: ASSESSOR RECOMMENDATIONS (assessor of LGU must complete Part 4)

Provide the Taxable Value and State Equalized Value of Commercial Property, as provided in Public Act 210 of 2005, as amended, for the tax year immediately preceding the effective date of the certificate (December 31 of the year approved by the STC).

	Taxable Value	State Equalized Value (SEV)
Land	\$325,800	
Building(s)	\$627,755	

The property to be covered by this exemption may not be included on any other specific tax roll while receiving the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption. For example, property on the Eligible Tax Reverted Property (Land Bank) specific tax roll cannot be granted a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption that would also put the same property on the Commercial Rehabilitation specific tax roll.

By checking this box I certify that, if approved, the property to be covered by this exemption will be on the Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption specific tax roll and not on any other specific tax roll.

Name of Local Government Body Meridian Charter Township	
Name of Assessor (first and last name) Ashley Winstead	Telephone Number (517) 853-4404
Fax Number	E-mail Address winstead@meridian.mi.us

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in Part 4 of this application is complete and accurate.

Assessor's Signature	Date
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PART 5: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTION (clerk of LGU must complete Part 5)

Action Taken By LGU (attach a certified copy of the resolution):

- Exemption approved for _____ years, ending December 30, _____ (not to exceed 10 years)
- Exemption Denied

Date District Established (attach resolution for district)	Local Unit Classification Identification (LUCI) Code	School Code
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PART 6: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLERK CERTIFICATION (clerk of LGU must complete Part 6)

Clerk's Name (first and last) Deborah Guthrie	Telephone Number (517) 853-4324		
Fax Number	E-mail Address guthrie@meridian.mi.us		
Mailing Address 5151 Marsh Road	City Okemos	State MI	ZIP Code 48864
LGU Contact Person for Additional Information Amber Clark	LGU Contact Person Telephone Number (517) 853-4568	Fax Number	

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application and attachments is complete and accurate and hereby request the State Tax Commission issue a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate, as provided by Public Act 210 of 2005, as amended.

Clerk's Signature	Date
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For faster service, the LGU should email the completed application and required documents to PTE@michigan.gov.

An additional submission option is to mail the completed application and required documents to:

Michigan Department of Treasury, State Tax Commission
P.O. Box 30471
Lansing, MI 48909

1655 and 1621 Haslett Road Proposed Development Approval Timeline

MUPUD

Approved August 7th, 2022

Next step: Site Plan Review internal process completed by planning staff

Brownfield Redevelopment Plan

1. Township Board Approved Brownfield November 2022
2. Submission to MEDC for State Brownfield Plan November 2022
 - . Receipt of Letter of Interest from MEDC Brownfield team for application to Brownfield Plan TI Agreement 1/2 /202
 - . 6 week timeline for MEDC to give full approval and agreement for Brownfield TI plan
5. Demolition to occur after MEDC approves Brownfield

Establishment of a Commercial Rehabilitation District

Established June 7, 2022 Haslett Village Square Commercial Rehabilitation District No. 1

Application for Commercial Exemption

Received Thursday February 2, 202

Internal review completed by Economic Development Director

Public hearing for CRA exemption is February 21, 202

Township Board may approve February 21, 202

Application, Resolutions and Narrative are submitted to STC for certification

Taxable and SE confirmed by Township Assessor May 202

Construction Commencement

Spring/Summer demolition and site contamination removal

Vertical Construction all

First Phase Development completed 2025



To: Township Board

From: Timothy R. Schmitt, *AICP*
Community Planning and Development Director

Date: February 13, 2023

Re: **Rezoning #23-01 (MW6 LLC), rezone the property at 1642 Lake Court, from RB (One-Family High Density Residential) and C-1 (Neighborhood Service) to RCC (Multiple-Family Residential) with a condition of rezoning.**

Rezoning 23-01 is a request to rezone approximately 0.7 acres of land between Lake Lansing Road and Lake Court, just west of Marsh Road, from RB, One-Family High Density Residential, and C-1, Neighborhood Service to RCC, Multiple-Family Residential, with a limitation that no more than 12 units be built on the property. The Planning Commission held a public hearing for the rezoning at its January 9, 2023 regular meeting and voted to recommend approval at their January 23, 2023 meeting. No major concerns were raised during the discussion of the request. The Township Board discussed the matter at their February 6, 2023 meeting and were generally supportive of the request.

Staff **recommends approval** of the proposed ordinance at this time to help further redevelopment of the property and implement goals of the 2017 Master Plan. Staff has provided the following recommended motion and attached resolution to introduce the ordinance.

Move to adopt the resolution approving for introduction Ordinance 2023-01, an ordinance to rezone the property at 1642 Lake Court (Parcel ID number 33-02-02-10-207-032) from RB, One-Family High Density Residential, and C-1, Neighborhood Service, to RCC, Multiple-Family Residential, subject to a condition of rezoning limiting development on the lot to 12 dwelling units.

Attachments

1. Resolution to Approve Ordinance 2023-01 for Introduction
2. Ordinance 2023-01 – 1642 Lake Court Rezoning

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE - Introduction

**Ordinance 2023-01
1642 Lake Court - Rezoning**

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 21st day of February, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, MW6, LLC has requested the rezoning of the 0.7 acre parcel at 1642 Lake Court, just west of Marsh Road, between Lake Court and Lake Lansing Road; and

WHEREAS, the property currently has split zoning, both RB, One-Family High Density Residential, and C-1, Neighborhood Service; and

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks to rezone the property to RCC, Multiple-Family Residential, with a condition of rezoning offered voluntarily by the applicant that would limit development on the site to no more than 12 dwelling units; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and discussed at its regular meeting on January 9, 2023, and made a positive recommendation to the Township Board on the change at their January 23, 2023 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board discussed the proposed rezoning at its meeting on February 6, 2023, and has reviewed the staff and Planning Commission materials provided under a cover memorandum dated February 2, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the 2017 Township Master Plan was to encourage infill development near existing utilities, transit stops, and in walkable locations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning would allow for redevelopment of the subject properties, where none of the previous homes or lots met the modern minimum standards; and

WHEREAS, with the voluntary condition limiting the development to 12 dwelling units, the proposed rezoning would not be substantially more dense than the previous eleven lots which make up the subject property; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN hereby INTRODUCES FOR PUBLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION Ordinance Number 2023-01, entitled "Ordinance Amending the Zoning District Map of Meridian Township pursuant to Rezoning Application #23010" from RB, One-Family High Density Residential, and C-1,

**Resolution to Introduce
Ordinance 2023-01 – 1642 Lake Court
Page 2**

Neighborhood Service to RCC, Multiple-Family Residential, subject to a conditional rezoning agreement limiting the development of the site to 12 dwelling units.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Charter Township of Meridian is directed to publish the Ordinance in the form in which it is introduced at least once prior to the next regular meeting of the Township Board.

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 21st day of February, 2023.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP
OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
PURSUANT TO REZONING #23-01

The Charter Township of Meridian ordains:

Section 1. Amending the Zoning District Map.

A. The Zoning District Map of Meridian Township, as adopted in Section 86-312 of the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan, as previously amended, is hereby amended by changing the RB (One-Family High Density) and C-1 (Neighborhood Service) District symbols and indication as shown on the Zoning District Map, for Parcel #33-02-02-10-207-032, legally described as:

Lots 180 through 185 and 193 through 198 Oak Grove Park

to that of RCC (Multiple-Family Residential) with a condition limiting the development to no more than 12 dwelling units.

Section 2. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective seven (7) days after its publication or upon such later date as may be required under Section 402 of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3402) after filing of a notice of intent to file a petition for a referendum.

Patricia Herring Jackson, Township Supervisor

Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk



To: Board Members

From: Trustee Scott Hendrickson, Trustee Courtney Wisinski and Supervisor Patricia Herring-Jackson

Date: February 17, 2023

Re: Calling the Michigan Legislature and Congress to Action on Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

In recent weeks, Meridian Township responded to an incident at Okemos High School that was believed to be an active shooter situation. Thankfully and fortunately, this was a hoax that was called in to school districts throughout the state. Okemos High School parents, and indeed we all, knew that the next such situation may not be a hoax, and that this could have been all too real. Our children's lives are too important to wait for something like this to happen in our community.

And then, just 6 days later, our mid-Michigan community faced the unthinkable, yet somehow inevitable, circumstance that is all too familiar. Just after 8:00 p.m. on February 13, local emergency personnel were called to a shots-fired incident on Michigan State University's campus. Law enforcement and paramedics from across the region, including Meridian Townships Police, Fire and EMS personnel responded in force.

Our first responders acted heroically and were able to work with local, county, state and federal partners to track down the shooter after a grueling several hours for our neighbors and the greater Spartan family. Unfortunately, as is too often the case, there were fatalities, with several students pronounced dead and more transported to local hospitals in critical condition.

Nothing can bring back those that we have already lost to unspeakable acts of gun violence, at Michigan State University or across our nation, however we can make governance-based changes now that will help to prevent gun violence in our state for the years to come.

To date, the Michigan Legislature has taken up no meaningful legislation to impose any commonsense changes to our current state statute in response to this crisis. Trustee Hendrickson, along with Trustee Wisinski and Supervisor Patricia Herring-Jackson, believe that it is incumbent upon our leaders to stand up and demand action from the legislature on this violence in our state and from our Congress on a national stage.

This resolution urges the State Legislature and Congress to take up bills that would enact universal background checks, red flag laws, assault weapon and magazine capacity restrictions and safe storage legislation immediately and send them to the Governor and President respectively for their signature.

The laws being urged by this resolution are a start, and would move Michigan and our nation in the right direction to make it less likely that these acts of violence will occur again.

Memo to Township Board

February 17, 2023

Re: Calling the Michigan Legislature and Congress to Action on Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

Page 2 of 5

It is incumbent on leaders at every level to stand up and demand change to prevent the further senseless loss of life. We urge the Board to approve this resolution.

The following two Motions are offered for consideration:

MOVE TO SUSPEND OUR RULES TO CONSIDER THIS ITEM FOR ACTION AT TONIGHT'S MEETING.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION CALLING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE AND CONGRESS TO ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION.

Attachments:

1. Resolution to Approve

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

Calling the Michigan Legislature to Action on Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 21st day of February, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following Resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Police recently responded to a call of an active shooter at Okemos High School, which was later determined to be a hoax, a situation which instilled fear in the hearts of students, faculty, and parents; and

WHEREAS, school shootings and gun violence are widespread, and it is the sense of this board that more legislative action is necessary to prevent them; and

WHEREAS, an active shooter incident has recently touched our mid-Michigan community on February 13, 2023 and resulted in the tragic loss of several Michigan State University students; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan legislature has, to date, not passed meaningful gun violence prevention legislation in decades; and

WHEREAS, Congress is stymied on the issue of gun control, allowing gun violence to remain unchecked across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Board of Trustees voted to establish the first Friday of June each year as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board encouraged and continues to encourage all citizens to support their local community’s efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives; and

WHEREAS, there is more that our state legislature and Congress can and should do to curtail gun violence in our communities and schools through small, yet sensible, legislative changes; and

WHEREAS, universal background checks, when properly enforced block illegal gun sales and keep deadly weapons out of the hands of the people with significant histories of violence or irresponsible behavior; and

WHEREAS, red flag laws, or extreme risk protection orders, are vital tools that courts can use to order temporary removal of firearms from those that may present an imminent danger to themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, assault weapon restrictions and bans prohibit the sale of semi-automatic and automatic weapons which are used to quickly fire multiple rounds and would restrict the ability of those seeking to commit acts of gun violence from obtaining these weapons, which are used to maximize casualties; and

WHEREAS, magazine capacity restrictions are used to limit the number of bullets that guns can fire without having to reload, thereby slowing down perpetrators of gun violence from being able to quickly fire weapons many times; and

WHEREAS, safe storage laws require gun owners to store guns in secured locations, so that unauthorized individuals may not access them, which would prevent children or others in the household from accessing the weapons and discharging them, either accidentally or in an act of violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Township Board condemns acts of gun violence in our community and throughout our state; and,

FURTHER RESOLVE, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, stands together with our neighbors at Michigan State University as well as alumni and future Spartans in our community and across the country in mourning those who have perished in and comforting those who were traumatized by this senseless act of gun violence; and,

FURTHER RESOLVE, the Township Board offers its appreciation and recognition for the courageous first responders from Meridian Township and across the region who put themselves in harm's way to respond quickly to the incident at Michigan State University; and,

FURTHER RESOLVE, that it is the sense of the Township Board that the State Legislature and Congress must do more to protect our residents and students by passing common sense gun control reforms to prevent the next acts of gun violence, including preventing acts of gun violence in our schools; and,

FURTHER RESOLVE, that the Township Board urges the State Legislature and Congress to enact, and the Governor and President to sign, universal background check legislation, red flag legislation, assault weapon restrictions, magazine capacity restrictions, and safe storage laws immediately; and,

Memo to Township Board

February 17, 2023

Re: Calling the Michigan Legislature and Congress to Action on Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

Page 5 of 5

FURTHER RESOLVE, that the Township Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to Meridian Township's state and federal legislative delegation, the Governor of the State of Michigan, and the President and Vice-President of the United States.

ADOPTED:

YEAS:

NAYS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss:

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk for the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 21st day of February 2023.

Deborah Guthrie
Meridian Township Clerk



To: Board Members
From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
Date: February 17, 2023
Re: Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Meridian Township Fire Fighters Association

For the past three months, our team has been working on how to provide more equity to our professional police officers, firefighter/paramedics.

Back in 2019, township administration negotiated new employment contracts with our firefighters/paramedics, police patrol and police command units. In 2019, the new five year agreements were approved by the bargaining units and the Township Board. The current contracts expire on December 31, 2024. The main thrust of the agreements included a 2% increase for each of the following five years. In 2019, the agreement appeared to be an equitable compromise for both sides. However, given what has transpired over the past 18 months, the 2% increase for 2023 and 2024 leaves our police officers and firefighter/paramedics in a vulnerable economic position.

Back in the summer of 2022, township administration, assisted by Human Resources, negotiated four bargaining contracts with the Department of Public Works, Supervisory, Non-Supervisory and Administrative Professionals. Three of the four contracts resulted in five year agreements. The Supervisory contract ended up as a three year agreement. Given our wage study, and the need to “catch up,” the four contracts included a wage increase of 3% and an additional 5% for all team members who had reached the top of their respective pay scales. With a few exceptions, the 5% adjustment covered team members with at least five years of tenure. The significant adjustment brought our team members more in line with comparable communities.

While the adjustment to the four aforementioned groups was warranted, the police officers and firefighter/paramedics are strapped with a 2% increase.

Over the past three months, we have been working on addressing the inequity with our police officers and firefighter/paramedics. I appreciate the patience and cooperation offered by the leadership of each of the three bargaining groups. To convey equity, our offer to the three groups is to mirror what was provided to the other four bargaining groups. That is, with your approval, the police officers and firefighter/paramedics will receive a 3% increase over their 2022 rate. In addition, a 5% increase would be provided to those who are at the top step within their bargaining group. Our finance department has completed an analysis of the increased wage enhancements. We expect the increase to be approximately \$270,000. The question is “how do we pay for the increase within the 2023 Budget?” The proposal also extends our current employment contracts by two years. If approved by the Board, the three contracts would sunset on December 31, 2026.

Memo to Township Board

February 17, 2023

Re: Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Meridian Township Fire Fighters Association

Page 2

To be clear, the four year proposal for wage increases is:

February 24, 2023 3% & 5% adjustment

January 1, 2024 3%

January 1, 2025 3%

January 1, 2026 3%

My recommendation is to transfer \$300,000 originally earmarked for the Senior/Community Center Feasibility Study to the general fund to cover the gap. Additionally, the enhancement will further Meridian Township's ability to retain and attract the best talent.

The following motion has been prepared for Board consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED WAGE INCREASE AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.



To: Board Members
From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
Date: February 17, 2023
Re: Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Police Officers Association of Michigan

For the past three months, our team has been working on how to provide more equity to our professional police officers, firefighter/paramedics.

Back in 2019, township administration negotiated new employment contracts with our firefighters/paramedics, police patrol and police command units. In 2019, the new five year agreements were approved by the bargaining units and the Township Board. The current contracts expire on December 31, 2024. The main thrust of the agreements included a 2% increase for each of the following five years. In 2019, the agreement appeared to be an equitable compromise for both sides. However, given what has transpired over the past 18 months, the 2% increase for 2023 and 2024 leaves our police officers and firefighter/paramedics in a vulnerable economic position.

Back in the summer of 2022, township administration, assisted by Human Resources, negotiated four bargaining contracts with the Department of Public Works, Supervisory, Non-Supervisory and Administrative Professionals. Three of the four contracts resulted in five year agreements. The Supervisory contract ended up as a three year agreement. Given our wage study, and the need to “catch up,” the four contracts included a wage increase of 3% and an additional 5% for all team members who had reached the top of their respective pay scales. With a few exceptions, the 5% adjustment covered team members with at least five years of tenure. The significant adjustment brought our team members more in line with comparable communities.

While the adjustment to the four aforementioned groups was warranted, the police officers and firefighter/paramedics are strapped with a 2% increase.

Over the past three months, we have been working on addressing the inequity with our police officers and firefighter/paramedics. I appreciate the patience and cooperation offered by the leadership of each of the three bargaining groups. To convey equity, our offer to the three groups is to mirror what was provided to the other four bargaining groups. That is, with your approval, the police officers and firefighter/paramedics will receive a 3% increase over their 2022 rate. In addition, a 5% increase would be provided to those who are at the top step within their bargaining group. Our finance department has completed an analysis of the increased wage enhancements. We expect the increase to be approximately \$270,000. The question is “how do we pay for the increase within the 2023 Budget?” The proposal also extends our current employment contracts by two years. If approved by the Board, the three contracts would sunset on December 31, 2026.

Memo to Township Board

February 17, 2023

Re: Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Police Officers Association of Michigan

Page 2

To be clear, the four year proposal for wage increases is:

February 24, 2023 3% & 5% adjustment

January 1, 2024 3%

January 1, 2025 3%

January 1, 2026 3%

My recommendation is to transfer \$300,000 originally earmarked for the Senior/Community Center Feasibility Study to the general fund to cover the gap. Additionally, the enhancement will further Meridian Township's ability to retain and attract the best talent.

The following motion has been prepared for Board consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED WAGE INCREASE AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.



To: Board Members
From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
Date: February 17, 2023
**Re: Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Meridian Township
Police Supervisory Unit**

For the past three months, our team has been working on how to provide more equity to our professional police officers, firefighter/paramedics.

Back in 2019, township administration negotiated new employment contracts with our firefighters/paramedics, police patrol and police command units. In 2019, the new five year agreements were approved by the bargaining units and the Township Board. The current contracts expire on December 31, 2024. The main thrust of the agreements included a 2% increase for each of the following five years. In 2019, the agreement appeared to be an equitable compromise for both sides. However, given what has transpired over the past 18 months, the 2% increase for 2023 and 2024 leaves our police officers and firefighter/paramedics in a vulnerable economic position.

Back in the summer of 2022, township administration, assisted by Human Resources, negotiated four bargaining contracts with the Department of Public Works, Supervisory, Non-Supervisory and Administrative Professionals. Three of the four contracts resulted in five year agreements. The Supervisory contract ended up as a three year agreement. Given our wage study, and the need to “catch up,” the four contracts included a wage increase of 3% and an additional 5% for all team members who had reached the top of their respective pay scales. With a few exceptions, the 5% adjustment covered team members with at least five years of tenure. The significant adjustment brought our team members more in line with comparable communities.

While the adjustment to the four aforementioned groups was warranted, the police officers and firefighter/paramedics are strapped with a 2% increase.

Over the past three months, we have been working on addressing the inequity with our police officers and firefighter/paramedics. I appreciate the patience and cooperation offered by the leadership of each of the three bargaining groups. To convey equity, our offer to the three groups is to mirror what was provided to the other four bargaining groups. That is, with your approval, the police officers and firefighter/paramedics will receive a 3% increase over their 2022 rate. In addition, a 5% increase would be provided to those who are at the top step within their bargaining group. Our finance department has completed an analysis of the increased wage enhancements. We expect the increase to be approximately \$270,000. The question is “how do we pay for the increase within the 2023 Budget?” The proposal also extends our current employment contracts by two years. If approved by the Board, the three contracts would sunset on December 31, 2026.

Memo to Township Board

February 17, 2023

Re: Wage Adjustment & Contract Extension Consideration-Meridian Township Police Supervisory Unit

Page 2

To be clear, the four year proposal for wage increases is:

February 24, 2023 3% & 5% adjustment

January 1, 2024 3%

January 1, 2025 3%

January 1, 2026 3%

My recommendation is to transfer \$300,000 originally earmarked for the Senior/Community Center Feasibility Study to the general fund to cover the gap. Additionally, the enhancement will further Meridian Township's ability to retain and attract the best talent.

The following motion has been prepared for Board consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED WAGE INCREASE AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE SUPERVISORY UNIT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.



To: Board Members
From: Frank Walsh, Township Manager
Amanda Garber, CPA, Finance Director
Date: February 21, 2023
Re: Redesignation of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding

The proposed wage increases for the three union groups for our police officers and firefighter/paramedics are as follows:

Effective February 24, 2023 - 3% increase & 5% adjustment
Effective January 1, 2024 – 3% increase
Effective January 1, 2025 – 3% increase
Effective January 1, 2026 – 3% increase

The wage adjustments for future years (2024-2026) will be built into our General Fund budget as we begin the budgeting process for each of those years.

The timing of the proposed wage adjustment for 2023 leaves a significant gap in our General Fund 2023 budget. We estimate this gap to be approximately \$270,000.

We recommend a transfer of \$300,000, originally earmarked in the ARP funding for the Senior/Community Center Feasibility Study, to the General Fund to cover the 2023 budget gap.

The following motion has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:

“MOVE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$300,000 ORIGINALLY EARMARKED FOR THE SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND”



To: Township Board

From: Timothy R. Schmitt, *AICP*
Director of Community Planning and Development

Date: February 14, 2023

Re: Recreational Marijuana Text Amendments

Over the past several months, the Planning Commission, Township Board, Staff, and the Township Attorney have been discussing a series of ordinance amendments to allow recreational marijuana sales in the Township. As a reminder, three separate ordinances are required to make the necessary changes to allow recreational marijuana sales and provide a base level of consistency with the existing medical marijuana ordinance: one changing the zoning ordinance, one setting out the process/procedures for recreational marijuana, and one modifying the medical marijuana standards.

The Township Board had a robust initial discussion at their meeting on February 7th and provided Staff and the Township Attorney good feedback on a number of items and specifically on two outstanding questions: the number of licensed facilities permitted per overlay district and the allowance for a potential grow operation on Hagadorn Road. We have revised the draft ordinances based on that feedback, including a minor change to the Zoning Ordinance, and they are attached.

The Township Board has scheduled this matter for a work session on February 28th. Staff and the Township Attorney look forward to further feedback and discussion on the ordinance package at this meeting, along with any outstanding questions we can respond to, in advance of further discussion at the work session on the 28th.

Attachments

1. Ordinance 2022-19 – Marijuana Zoning Ordinance Changes with Proposed Overlay Map revisions
2. Ordinance 2023-02 – Recreational Marijuana Licensing
3. Ordinance 2023-03 – Medical Marijuana Licensing Updates

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF
MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY TO RENAME CHAPTER 40, REPEAL ARTICLE III
OF CHAPTER 40, AND ADDING ARTICLE IV TO CHAPTER 40 WHICH
AUTHORIZES AND PERMITS RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS**

ORDINANCE NO. _____

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building on _____, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., Township Board Member _____ moved to introduce the following Ordinance for a first reading prior to posting, publication, and subsequent final adoption, which motion was seconded by Township Board Member _____:

An Ordinance to implement the provisions of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act, Initiated Law 1 of 2018, which authorizes the licensing and regulation of Marihuana Establishments and affords the Township the option whether or not to allow Marihuana Establishments; to regulate Marihuana Establishments by requiring a Permit and compliance with requirements as provided in this Ordinance, and make other amendments consistent with the authorization of Marihuana Establishments in order to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors to the Township.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO RETITLE CHAPTER 40. Chapter 40 of the Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read and be entitled “Marihuana Regulations.”

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I, TO ADD SECTION 40-2 DEFINITIONS. Chapter 40 of the Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add Section 40-2 entitled Definitions to read as follows:

Section 40-2. Definitions. The following words and phrases shall have the following definitions when used in this Chapter:

1. “*Application*” means an Application for a Permit under this Chapter and includes all supplemental documentation attached or required to be attached thereto; the Person filing the Application shall be the proposed Permit Holder, who may also be referred to as the Applicant.
2. “*Commercial Medical Marihuana Facility*” or “*Facility*” means
 - a. *Provisioning center*, as that term is defined in the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act, Public Act 281 of 2016 (“MMFLA”);
 - b. *Processor*, as that term is defined in the MMFLA;
 - c. *Secure transporter*, as that term is defined in the MMFLA;

- d. *Grower*, including Class A, Class B and Class C, as those terms are defined in the MMFLA;
 - e. *Safety compliance facility*, as that term is defined in the MMFLA.
3. “*Cultivate*” means as that term is defined in Initiated Act 1 of 2018, MCL 333.27951, *et seq*, Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (“MRTMA”).
 4. “*Department*” means the Michigan State Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs or any authorized designated Michigan agency authorized to regulate, issue or administer a Michigan License for an Marihuana Establishment under MRTMA or a Commercial Medical Marihuana Facility under the MMFLA.
 5. “*Director of Community Planning and Development*” means the Charter Township of Meridian Director of Community Planning and Development or his/her designee
 6. “*License*” means a current and valid License for an Establishment or Facility issued by the Department. Prequalification, provisional licenses, or temporary licenses are not Licenses under this Chapter.
 7. “*Licensee*” means a Person holding a current and valid Michigan License for an Establishment or Facility.
 8. “*Marihuana*” means that term as defined in the MRTMA.
 9. “*Marihuana Establishment*” or “*Establishment*” means a marihuana grower, marihuana safety compliance facility, marihuana processor, marihuana microbusiness, marihuana retailer, marihuana secure transporter, designated consumption establishment, excess marihuana grower, marihuana event organizer, temporary marihuana event license, or any other type of marihuana-related business Licensed by the department.
 - a. “*Marihuana grower*,” as that term is defined in the MRTMA; and
 - b. “*Marihuana microbusiness*,” as that term is defined in the MRTMA; and
 - c. “*Marihuana processor*,” as that term is defined in the MRTMA; and
 - d. “*Marihuana retailer*,” as that term is defined in the MRTMA; and
 - e. “*Marihuana secure transporter*,” as that term is defined in the MRTMA; and
 - f. “*Marihuana safety compliance facility*,” as that term is defined in the MRTMA; and
 - g. “*Class A marihuana microbusiness license*,” as that term is defined by the Department or as may be defined in the MRTMA; and
 - h. “*Designated consumption establishment*,” as that term is defined by the Department or as may be defined in the MRTMA; and

- i. “*Excess marihuana grower*,” as that term is defined by the Department or as may be defined in the MRTMA; and
 - j. “*Marihuana event organizer*,” as that term is defined by the Department or as may be defined in the MRTMA; and
 - k. “*Temporary marihuana event*” as that term is defined by the Department or as may be defined in the MRTMA.
10. “*Paraphernalia*” means as that term is defined in the MMFLA.
11. “*Patient*” A "registered qualifying patient" or a "visiting qualifying patient" as those terms are defined by the MMFLA.
12. “*Permit*” in Article II means a current and valid Permit for a Commercial Medical Marihuana Facility issued under that Article and in Article IV means a current and valid Permit for a Marihuana Establishment issued under that Article, which each shall be granted to a Permit Holder only for and limited to a specific Permitted Premises and a specific Permitted Property. Both Permits in this Chapter shall be in addition to the special use permit required to be obtained under the Township Zoning Ordinance.
13. “*Permit Holder*” means the Person that holds a current and valid Permit issued under this Chapter.
14. “*Permitted Premises*” means the particular building, area within a building, or buildings within which the Permit Holder will be authorized to conduct the Facility’s or Establishment’s activities pursuant to the Permit.
15. “*Permitted Property*” means the real property comprised of a lot, parcel or other designated unit of real property upon which the Permitted Premises is situated.
16. “*Person*” means a natural person, company, partnership, profit or non-profit corporation, limited liability company, or any joint venture for a common purpose.
17. “*Process*” or “*Processing*” means to separate or otherwise prepare parts of the marihuana plant and to compound, blend, extract, infuse, or otherwise make or prepare marihuana concentrate or marihuana-infused products.
18. “*Public Place*” means any area in which the public is invited or generally permitted in the usual course of business.
19. “*Registry Identification Card*” means a “registered qualifying patient” or a “visiting qualifying patient” as those terms are defined in the MMFLA.

20. “*Township*” means the Charter Township of Meridian, a charter township located in Ingham County, Michigan.

21. Other words or phrases in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the MMFLA or MRTMA, except where context clearly indicates a different meaning.

SECTION 3. ADDITION OF ARTICLE IV, RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS. Chapter 40 of the Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add Article IV entitled Recreational Marihuana Establishments to read as follows:

Section 40-66. Title. This Article shall be known and cited as the “Recreational Marihuana Establishments Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian.”

Section 40-68. Permit Required; Number of Permits Available; Eligibility; General Provisions.

1. The Township hereby authorizes the operation of the following types of Marihuana Establishments, subject to the number of available Permits issued in this Section:

a. Marihuana Retailer

~~b. Marihuana Grower~~

2. The number of Marihuana Establishment Permits in effect at any time shall not exceed the following maximums within the Township:

a. Marihuana Retailer Permits: _____

~~b. Marihuana Grower: _____~~

3. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in, or be issued a Permit for, the operation of the following Marihuana Establishments which shall have zero available Permits:

a. Marihuana Processor Permits

b. Marihuana Safety Compliance Facility Permits

c. Marihuana Secure Transporter Permits

d. Marihuana Microbusiness

e. Marihuana Microbusiness, Class A

~~e.f.~~ Marihuana Grower, Classes A, B, and C

~~f.g.~~ Excess Marihuana Grower Permits

~~g.~~h. Designated Consumption Establishment

~~h.~~i. Marihuana Event Organizer

~~i.~~j. Temporary Marihuana Event

4. No Person shall operate a Marihuana Establishment at any time and at any location within the Township unless an effective Permit for a Marihuana Establishment for that Person at that location has been issued under this Article.

5. Marihuana Establishments shall operate only as expressly allowed under this Article.

~~5.~~6. Marihuana Establishments shall only operate in the designated zoning overlay areas. No more than one (1) Marihuana Establishment Permit shall be approved or issued in any single overlay area.

~~6.~~7. The requirements set forth in this Article shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other licensing or permitting requirements imposed by applicable federal, state or local laws, regulations, codes or ordinances. All permit approvals under this Article are contingent upon the issuance of a Special Use Permit under the township zoning ordinance.

~~7.~~8. At the time of Application, each Applicant shall pay applicable fees, including Application fees, annual fees, renewal fees, and inspection fees for Permits to the Township to defray the costs incurred by the Township for inspection, administration, review, oversight, and enforcement of the local regulations regarding Marihuana Establishments. The application fee shall be \$5,000.00. The Township Board shall by resolution set all remaining fees in an amount not to exceed any limitations imposed by Michigan law.

~~8.~~9. A Permit or Renewal Permit shall not confer any vested rights, entitlements, or reasonable expectation of subsequent renewal on the Applicant or Permit Holder, and shall remain valid only until December 31 immediately following its approval.

~~9.~~10. Each year, any pending Applications for renewal or amendment of existing Permits shall be reviewed and granted or denied before Applications for new Permits are considered.

~~10.~~11. It is always the exclusive responsibility of each Permit Holder, Applicant, owner, partner, director, officer, or manager at all times during the Application period and during its operation to immediately provide the Township with all material changes in any information submitted on an Application and any other changes that may materially affect any state License or Township Permit. They shall provide all formal complaints, final determinations, orders or consent orders from or with any State agency, including, but not limited to, the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA), the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS), and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

~~11.~~12. No Permit issued under this Article may be assigned or transferred to any Person. No change in control of a business organization or any attempted transfer, sale, or other

conveyance of an interest of more than 1% in a Permit, whether through a single transaction or the combined sum of multiple transactions is permitted.

~~12.13.~~ No Permit issued under this Article is transferrable to any other location.

~~13.14.~~ The Permit issued under this Article shall at all times be prominently displayed at the Permitted Premises in a location where it can be easily viewed by the public, law enforcement and administrative authorities.

~~14.15.~~ Acceptance by the Permit Holder of a Permit constitutes consent by the Permit Holder and its owners, officers, managers, agents and, employees, for any state, federal or local fire, emergency, or law enforcement agency to perform background investigations and conduct random and unannounced examinations of the Establishment and all records, materials, and property in that Establishment at any time to ensure compliance with this Article, state law, any other local regulations, and the Permit.

~~15.16.~~ A Permit Holder may not engage in any other Marihuana Establishment in the Permitted Premises or on the Permitted Property, or in its name at any other location within the Township, without first obtaining a separate Permit.

Section 40-69. Other Laws and Ordinances. In addition to the terms of this Article, any Marihuana Establishment shall comply with all state and local laws, regulations, and Ordinances, including without limitation the Township Zoning Ordinance and the MRTMA to the extent such ordinances do not create obligations in conflict with this Article.

Section 40-70. Application for Permits.

1. Application Process.

- a. Applications shall be submitted to the Director of Community Planning and Development.
- b. No Applications shall be accepted unless the Township Board has issued procedures and standards for the receipt and review of Applications as set forth in this Article.
- c. The dates and times to accept Applications shall be determined by the Township Board, which shall be posted on the Township's website, if any. The Director shall only accept initial Applications as designated by the Township Board.
- d. If the Director of Community Planning and Development identifies or is informed of a deficiency in an Application, the Applicant shall correct the deficiency after notification by the Director of Community Planning and Development as provided in the procedures and standards.

2. Application Contents. An Application must be submitted for each and every single Permit or Establishment type which may be operated within the Township. An Applicant shall submit physical, paper copies of the Application in the number requested by the Township Board and

shall include a complete electronic copy of the Application. An Application shall contain the following information:

- a. The name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the Applicant or Permit Holder and the proposed Marihuana Establishment;
- b. The names, home addresses and personal phone numbers for all owners, partners, directors, officers and managers of the Permit Holder and the Marihuana Establishment;
- c. One (1) copy of all the following:
 - i. Non-refundable Application fee.
 - ii. All documentation showing the Applicant's valid tenancy, ownership or other legal interest in the proposed Permitted Property and Permitted Premises. If the Applicant is not the owner of the proposed Permitted Property and Permitted Premises, a notarized statement from the owner of such property authorizing the use of the property for a Marihuana Establishment.
 - iii. If the Applicant is a corporation, non-profit organization, limited liability company or any other entity other than a natural person, it shall indicate its legal status, attach a copy of all company formation documents (including bylaws and amendments), identify all owners and their percentage of ownership in the entity accounting for 100% of the ownership interest in the Applicant, proof of registration with the State of Michigan, and a certificate of good standing.
 - iv. A valid, unexpired driver's license or state issued ID for all owners, directors, officers and managers of the proposed Establishment.
 - v. Evidence of a valid sales tax license for the Applicant if such a license is required by state law or local regulations.
 - vi. Business and Operations Plan, showing in detail the Marihuana Establishment's proposed plan of operation, including without limitation, the following:
 - a) A description of the type of Establishment(s) proposed and the anticipated or actual number of employees.
 - b) A security plan meeting the requirements of this Chapter, which shall include a general description of the security systems(s), a centrally alarmed and monitored security system for the proposed Permitted Premises, and confirmation that those systems will meet State requirements and be approved by the State prior to commencing operations.
 - c) A description by category of all products proposed to be sold.

- d) All Material Safety Data Sheets for any nutrients, pesticides, and other chemicals proposed for use in the Marihuana Establishment.
- e) A description and plan of all equipment and methods that will be employed to stop any impact to adjacent uses, including enforceable assurances that no nuisance odor will be detectable beyond the Permitted Premises or at the property line of the Permitted Property.
- f) A plan for the disposal of Marihuana and related byproducts that will be used at the Establishment.
- vii. Site plan and interior floor plan of the Permitted Premises and the Permitted Property lawfully signed and sealed by a Michigan registered architect, surveyor or professional engineer.
- viii. Identify any business that is directly or indirectly involved in the growing, processing, testing, transporting or sale of Marihuana for the Establishment.
- ix. Whether any Applicant, owner, partner, director, officer, or manager of the Applicant or any entity owned or controlled by any owner, partner, director, officer, or manager of the Applicant has ever been denied, restricted, suspended, revoked, or not renewed any commercial license, permit, or certificate issued by a licensing authority in Michigan or any other jurisdiction, and a statement describing the facts and circumstances concerning the denial, restriction, suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal, including the licensing authority, the date each action was taken, and the reason for each action.
- x. A complete list of and operational history regarding any and all other Marihuana Establishments, Commercial Medical Marihuana Facilities, similar Permits or Licenses, or any other marihuana business or venture that the Applicant, or any owner, partner, director, officer, or manager of the Applicant or any entity owned or controlled in whole or part by any owner, partner, director, officer, or manager of the Applicant in any other jurisdiction within the State, or another State, and their involvement in each.
- d. Any other information reasonably requested by the Township to be relevant to the processing or consideration of the Application. A determination of a complete Application shall not prohibit the Township from requiring supplemental information.
- e. Information obtained from the Applicant or Permit Holder is exempt from public disclosure under state law.
- f. Applicant and all related persons acknowledge and consent to a background check and investigation by the Township as a condition of the Township processing and reviewing the application for approval or denial of a permit, including providing their Social Security numbers or other personal identifying information to the Township or their agents for a

background check or any other purpose permitted under this Article. Such information is confidential and shall not be disclosed except as permitted or required under this Article.

- g. By submitting an Application pursuant to this Article, Applicant and all related Persons agree that the Applicant and all related Persons have had the opportunity to review the Article and the competitive process utilized by the Township and agree that it conforms to the requirements of MRTMA and all other statutes. The Applicant and all related Persons covenant not to bring any legal claim to any federal or state court alleging that this Article and the competitive process set forth by the Township violate MRTMA, any other statute, or are otherwise illegal.
- h. A co-located Permit Application may expressly incorporate by reference information or documentation contained in the original Permit Application.

3. **Timeframe for Application Evaluation.**

- a. All inspections, review, competitive review, and processing of the Application shall be completed within ninety (90) days of receipt of a complete Application and all required fees. The Township Board shall approve or deny the Permit within one hundred twenty (120) days of receipt of the completed Application and fees. If the Application is approved, then the Permit shall be issued to the Applicant as the Permit Holder.
- b. The processing time may be extended upon written notice by the Township for good cause, and any failure to meet the required processing time shall not result in the automatic grant of the Permit.
- c. The Township has no obligation to process or approve any incomplete Application, and any times provided under this Article shall not begin to run until the Township receives a complete Application.

Section 40-71. Approval and Competitive Review of Applications; Appeal.

1. **Approval, Issuance, and Denial**

- a. Permit Approval. The Township Board shall make a determination based upon satisfactory compliance with this Article, Application requirements, and all other permits, certificates, rules or regulations and do one of the following:
 - i. Grant final approval to the Application and issue the Permit, with or without conditions. If the Application is approved, then the Permit shall be issued to the Applicant as the Permit Holder for a specific Permitted Premises.
 - ii. Deny the Application stating the reasons for such denial.
- b. Denial. A decision of the Township Board to issue or deny a Permit pursuant to this Article, are subject to this Article's appeal process. After the appeal process has been exhausted, a

Township Board decision may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction, provided that: (1) with respect to a denial of an initial Permit, an appeal shall not grant any rights to an Applicant, subject to an order of the court; and (2) with respect to denial of a Renewal Application, if the Applicant has paid all required fees (and any additional fees due during the pendency of the appeal), the pre-existing Permit shall be extended during the pendency of the appeal, unless otherwise ordered by a court.

- c. Commence Operation. The Applicant shall commence operation within 18 months of the Permit approval or the Permit approval shall be revoked. The Board may extend this timeframe for additional six month periods where the Applicant has commenced construction of the building and on other good cause shown to the Board.
- d. Special Use Permit Required. All permit approvals under this Article are contingent upon the issuance of a Special Use Permit under the township zoning ordinance.

2. Evaluation of Multiple Applications

- a. Competitive Review. If more Applications for new Establishments are received than there are available Permits (more than zero) under this Article, and the available Permit limits in this Article would prevent the Department from issuing a state license to all Applicants who meet the requirements of MCL 333.27959(3), then the Township will decide among the competing initial Applications with a competitive process established by the Township Board intended to select the Applicants who are best suited to operate in compliance with the Act, this Article, and within the Township.
- b. Procedures and Standards. The Township Board is authorized to issue procedures and standards establishing the application and competitive process under this Article. The Township Board may establish or appoint a committee to assist review of applications. The Township Board shall consider, review, and evaluate each initial Application according to the procedures and standards. The review will evaluate the contents of the Application(s), other materials submitted by the Applicant, legal opinions or other reports drafted to help facilitate board review, and any other material deemed relevant by the Township Board to select the Applicant, if any, that will provide the best outcome for the community as determined by the Township.
- c. Review at Public Hearing. After the Application window is closed, the Township shall hold a public hearing to review the Application(s) under the standards provided within this Article. To determine whether the Application(s) will be approved, the Township will apply the procedures and standards determined by the Township Board.
- d. Appeal and Automatic Stay. In the event an initial Applicant that was subject to competitive review appeals the Township's decision, then the Township shall automatically stay all approvals issued to other Applicant(s) who participated in the same competitive review as the Applicant(s) appealing. When an approval is stayed, the

Applicant(s) granted approval may apply for zoning approval of a Marihuana Establishment. This stay shall be lifted when the appealing Applicant(s) abandon or exhaust the appeal process.

- e. Available Permits. Permits subject to appeal or renewal shall not be considered available for the purposes of this subsection.

3. Appeal

- a. Right to Counsel. The Township and Applicant(s) have the right to be represented by legal counsel during an appeal under this Article.
- b. Timeline for Appeal. Within ten (10) calendar days of a decision of the Township Board, any Applicant under this Article may file a written appeal to the Township stating the grounds upon which the Township Board's decision was not authorized under the Ordinance, law, or not based on competent, material, and substantial evidence before the Township Board.
- c. Hearing Officer. After receipt of an appeal, the Township shall schedule the matter for a hearing before a hearing officer. The Township will appoint a hearing officer for each matter.
- d. Review by Hearing Officer. The hearing officer shall review and determine the merit of the grounds raised by the Applicant in their written appeal.
- e. Recommendation of Hearing Officer. Following the appeal hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare written recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law for transmittal to the Township Board based upon the evidence presented to the Township Board to make the decision being appealed. The hearing officer will recommend whether the Township Board should affirm, affirm with modification, or reverse the Township Board's decision.
- f. Decision by Township Board. The Township Board, in its final order, may adopt, modify, or reject, in whole or in part, the hearing officer's written recommendation. If the Township Board modifies or rejects the hearing officer's written recommendation, the reasons for that action shall be stated in the Township Board's final order.

Section 40-72. Renewal Applications

1. Renewal Application.

- a. Annual Renewal Required. A completed Renewal Application must be received by the Township no later than November 1st of each year in order to grant or renew the Permit effective on January 1 of that year.
- b. Initial Requirements. Renewal Applications must include the same contents as those of initial Applications under this Article.

- c. Incorporate Prior Application by Reference. A Renewal Application may expressly incorporate by reference information or documentation contained in the original Permit Application or prior Permit Renewal Application, making it clear where such information or documentation can be found, provided that the information or documentation has not changed.
- d. Supplemental Information. All material changes in any information submitted on an Application or Renewal Application shall be included with the Renewal Application.
- e. Additional Information. Any final reports, inspections, investigations, or summaries from the Department, the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (“CRA”), the Bureau of Fire Services (“BFS”), or the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (“LARA”) arising from or in connection with the Permit shall be submitted with Renewal Application.

2. **Renewal Procedure.**

- a. No Competitive Review. Renewal Applications are not subject to competitive review and Applicants may submit Applications as required or allowed in this Article whether or not the Township is accepting Applications.
- b. Past Conduct. The Township Board shall consider a Renewal Applicant’s past history of compliance with this Article and other laws in deciding whether to issue renewal approval. A Renewal Applicant’s failure to comply with this Article or other laws may result in a Renewal Application being denied.
- c. Renewal Prior to Operation. A Renewal Application is required from any Applicant even if the Establishment does not have a Permit or is not open to the public.
- d. Non-Renewal. The Township has no obligation to notify Applicants or Permit Holders of the renewal period. A Permit Holder whose Permit expires and for which a Renewal Application has not been received by the expiration date shall be presumed to have determined not to seek renewal.
- e. Issuance of Renewal Permit. Renewal Applications shall be received and processed by the Director of Community Planning and Development.
 - i. The Director shall make a determination as to whether a Renewal Application includes a major or minor amendment to the most recent initial or Renewal Application.
 - a) A major amendment shall be evidenced as having a significant impact on the Permit and the conditions of its approval, including but not limited to those factors identified in the procedures and standards.
 - b) All amendments or supplemental information not defined as major amendments shall be considered minor amendments.

- ii. The Director may grant final approval to the Renewal Applications with minor amendments and issue the Permit, with or without conditions.
- iii. The Director may make recommendations to the Township Board regarding approval or denial of a Renewal Application with major amendments. The Township Board shall make the final decision on whether to approve or deny a Renewal Application with major amendments.

~~iv.~~ Alternatively, the Director may recommend denial of the Renewal Application, stating the reasons for such denial. The final decision to deny a Renewal Application on a recommendation for denial shall be made by the Township Board, as provided for in the procedures and standards.

~~v.~~iv.

~~vi.~~v. An application denied renewal shall have the right to appeal such a determination as provided for initial Applications in this Article.

3. **No Transfer Application.** Any unauthorized transfer or attempted transfer of a Permit or ownership interest in a Permit Holder constitutes a violation of this Ordinance.

4. **Duty to Supplement.**

- a. If, at any time before or after a Permit is issued pursuant to this Article, any information required in the Permit Application, the MRTMA, or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, changes in any way from what is stated in the Application, the Applicant or Permit Holder shall supplement such information in writing within ten (10) days from the date upon which such change occurs.
- b. An Applicant or Permit Holder has a duty to notify the Township in writing of formal complaints, stipulations, or any enforcement actions from the Department.
- c. An Applicant or Permit Holder has a duty to notify the Township in writing of any pending criminal charge or indictment, and any criminal conviction of a felony or other offense involving a crime of moral turpitude by the Applicant, the Permit Holder, or any owner, officer, partner, director, manager, or employee within ten (10) days of the date when the Applicant, Permit Holder, owner, officer, partner, director, or manager has notice of the event.
- d. An Applicant or Permit Holder has a duty to notify the Township in writing of any pending criminal charge or indictment, and any criminal conviction, whether a felony, misdemeanor, or any violation of a local law or ordinance related to the cultivation, processing, manufacture, storage, sale, distribution, testing or consumption of any form of marihuana, the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act, the MMFLA, the MRTMA, any building, fire, health, or zoning statute, code or ordinance related to the cultivation, processing, manufacture, storage, sale, distribution, testing, or consumption of any form of marihuana by the Applicant, Permit Holder, any owner, officer, partner, director, manager,

or employee within (10) ten days of the date when the Applicant, Permit Holder, any owner, principal officer, director, or manager has notice of the event.

Section 70-73. Operational Requirements–Marihuana Establishment. A Marihuana Establishment issued a Permit under this Chapter and operating in the Township shall at all times comply with the following operational requirements.

1. *Scope of Operation.* Marihuana Establishments shall comply with all respective applicable codes of the local zoning, building, fire, and health departments. The Establishment must hold a valid unexpired Permit and License for the type of Marihuana Establishment intended to be carried out within the Permitted Premises on the Permitted Property. The Establishment operator, owner, Permit Holder, or Licensee must have documentation available that local and State sales tax requirements, including holding any licenses, if applicable, are satisfied.
2. *Required Documentation.* Each Marihuana Establishment shall be operated from the Permitted Premises on the Permitted Property. No Adult-Use Marihuana Establishment shall be permitted to operate from a moveable, mobile or transitory location, except for a Permitted and Licensed Secure Transporter when engaged in the lawful transport of Marihuana. No Person under the age of twenty-one (21) shall be allowed to enter into the Permitted Premises without a parent or legal guardian.
3. *Security.* Permit Holders shall at all times maintain a security system that meets state law requirements, and shall also include the following:
 - a. Security surveillance cameras installed to monitor all entrances, along with the interior and exterior of the Permitted Premises.
 - b. Robbery and burglary alarm systems which are professionally monitored and operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - c. A locking safe permanently affixed to the Permitted Premises that shall store all Marihuana and cash remaining in the Establishment overnight.
 - d. All Marihuana in whatever form stored at the Permitted Premises shall be kept in a secure manner and shall not be visible from outside the Permitted Premises, nor shall it be grown, processed, exchanged, displayed or dispensed outside the Permitted Premises.
 - e. All security recordings and documentation shall be preserved for at least 30 days by the Permit Holder and made available to any law enforcement upon request for inspection.
4. *Operating Hours.* No Retailer shall operate between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
5. *Required Spacing.* No Marihuana Establishment shall be located within one-thousand (1,000) feet from any public or private K-12 school, five hundred (500) feet from any church, place of worship or other religious facility, and five hundred (500) feet from any library, preschool, or nearest child care center, with the minimum distance between uses measured horizontally between the nearest property lines.

6. *Amount of Marihuana.* The amount of Marihuana on the Permitted Property and under the control of the Permit Holder, owner or operator of the Establishment shall not exceed that amount permitted by the state License or the Township's Permit.
7. *Sale of Marihuana.* The Marihuana offered for sale and distribution must be packaged and labeled in accordance with state law. The Establishment is prohibited from selling, soliciting or receiving orders for Marihuana or Marihuana Products over the internet.
8. *Sign Restrictions.* No pictures, photographs, drawings or other depictions of Marihuana or Marihuana Paraphernalia shall appear on the outside of any Permitted Premises nor be visible outside of the Permitted Premises on the Permitted Property. The words "Marihuana," "cannabis" and any other words used or intended to convey the presence or availability of Marihuana shall not appear on the outside of the Permitted Premises nor be visible outside of the Permitted Premises on the Permitted Property.
9. *Use of Marihuana.* The sale, consumption or use of alcohol or tobacco products on the Permitted Premises is prohibited. Smoking or consumption of controlled substances, including Marihuana, on the Permitted Premises is prohibited.
10. *Indoor Operation; No Drive Through.* All activities of a Marihuana Establishment, including without limitation, distribution, growth, cultivation, or the sale of Marihuana, and all other related activity permitted under the Permit Holder's License or Permit must occur indoors. The Establishment's operation and design shall minimize any impact to adjacent uses, including the control of any odor by maintaining and operating an air filtration system so that no odor is detectable outside the Permitted Premises. Additionally, a Marihuana Establishment shall not sell marihuana for delivery, shall not engage in any contactless or limited contact transactions, and shall not have any curbside service or drive through window service.
11. *Unpermitted Growing.* A Patient may not grow his or her own Marihuana at an Adult-Use Marihuana Establishment.
12. *Distribution.* No person operating a Establishment shall provide or otherwise make available Marihuana to any person who is not legally authorized to receive Marihuana under state law.
13. *Permits.* All necessary building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits must be obtained for any part of the Permitted Premises as determined by the relevant code official, with a special emphasis on those areas in which electrical, wiring, lighting or watering devices that support the cultivation, growing, harvesting or testing of Marihuana are located.
14. *Waste Disposal.* The Permit Holder, owner and operator of the Establishment shall use lawful methods in controlling waste or by-products from any activities allowed under the License or Permit.
15. *Transportation.* Marihuana may be transported by a Secure Transporter within the Township under this Chapter, and to effectuate its purpose, only:

- a. By Persons who are otherwise authorized by state law to possess Marihuana;
 - b. In a manner consistent with all applicable state laws and rules, as amended;
 - c. In a secure manner designed to prevent the loss of the Marihuana;
 - d. No vehicle used for the transportation or delivery of Marihuana under this Chapter shall have for markings the words “Marihuana,” “cannabis” or any similar words; pictures or other renderings of the Marihuana plant; advertisements for Marihuana or for its sale, transfer, cultivation, delivery, transportation or manufacture, or any other word, phrase or symbol indicating or tending to indicate that the vehicle is transporting Marihuana.
 - e. No vehicle may be used for the ongoing or continuous storage of Marihuana, but may only be used incidental to, and in furtherance of, the transportation of Marihuana.
16. Additional Conditions. The Director of Community Planning and Development may impose such reasonable terms and conditions on a Marihuana Establishment as may be necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and to obtain compliance with the requirements of this Chapter and applicable law.

Section 70-74. Penalties and Consequences for Violation. In addition to any other penalties or legal consequences provided under applicable federal, state and local law, regulations, codes and ordinances:

1. **Civil Infraction.** Violations of the provisions of this Article or failure to comply with any of the requirements of this Article shall be subject to and found responsible for a municipal civil infraction. The fine for any municipal civil infraction shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus court costs, attorney fees and abatement costs of each violation, together with all other remedies pursuant to MCL 600.8701, *et seq.* Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a separate municipal civil infraction.
2. **Denial, Restriction, or Revocation.** A Permit issued under this Article may be denied, limited, revoked, or restricted by the Township Board under any of the following conditions:
 - a. Any fraudulent, false, misleading, or material misrepresentation contained in the Application.
 - b. Repeat violations of any requirements of this Chapter or other applicable law, rule, or regulation. As used in this subsection, the term “repeat offense” means a second (or any subsequent) misdemeanor violation or civil infraction of the same requirement or provision committed within any six-month period and upon conviction or responsibility thereof.
 - c. A valid License is not maintained as required by this Article.
 - d. The Permit Holder, its officer, agent, manager, or employee failed to timely submit any

document or failed to timely make any material disclosure as required by this Article.

- e. The Applicant failed to commence operation within 18 months of the Permit approval or other such time as provided by the Township Board.
- 3. **Notice.** If a Permit is revoked or limited under this Article, the Township or its designee shall issue a notice stating the revocation, limitation, or restriction including the reason for the action and providing a date and time for an evidentiary hearing before the Township Board.
- 4. **Liability of Participating Persons.** The owner of record or tenant of any building, structure or premises, or part thereof, and any architect, builder, contractor, agent or person who commits, participates in, assists in or maintains such violation may each be found guilty or responsible of a separate offense and suffer the penalties and forfeitures provided in this section, except as excluded from responsibility by state law.
- 5. **Other Remedies.** In addition to any other remedies, the Township may institute proceedings for injunction, mandamus, abatement or other appropriate remedies to prevent, enjoin, abate or remove any violations of this Article. The rights and remedies provided herein are both civil and criminal in nature. The imposition of any fine, jail sentence or forfeiture shall not exempt the violator from compliance with the provisions of this Article.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable. If any part of this Ordinance is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, that declaration does not affect or impair the validity of all other provisions that are not subject to that declaration.

SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.

SECTION 6. REPEAL. Article III of Chapter 40 of the Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances entitled Recreational Marihuana Establishments is hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its publication after final adoption.

YEAS: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

Township Supervisor

Township Clerk

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ORDINANCE NO. 2023-XX

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF
MERIDIAN TO MODIFY THE LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR COMMERCIAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA
FACILITES

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 40-28, Permit required; Number of permits available; Eligibility; General provisions, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) The Township hereby authorizes the operation of the following types of commercial medical marihuana facilities, subject to the number of available permits issued in this section:

(1) Provisioning centers.

(b) The number of commercial medical marihuana facility permits in effect at any time shall not exceed the following maximums within the Township:

(1) Provisioning center permits: five.

(2) No more than one provisioning center shall be located in any single overlay area. If any overlay area has zero provisioning centers granted or under renewal and zero conditionally approved at the time set for the lottery, then a second provisioning center may be added to another overlay area. No overlay area shall have more than two provisioning centers.

(c) [UNCHANGED]

(d) [UNCHANGED]

(e) [UNCHANGED]

(f) [UNCHANGED]

(g) [UNCHANGED]

(h) [UNCHANGED]

(i) [UNCHANGED]

(j) [UNCHANGED]

(k) [UNCHANGED]

(l) [UNCHANGED]

(m) A permit holder may not engage in any other commercial medical marihuana facility or marijuana establishment, as defined under this Chapter, in the permitted premises or on the permitted property, or in its name at any other location within the Township, without first obtaining a separate permit under the applicable regulations.

Section 2. Section 40-30, Application for and renewal of permits, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Application.

(1) An application for a permit for a facility shall be submitted to the Director of Community Planning and Development per permitted premises and shall contain the following information:

a. [UNCHANGED]

b. [UNCHANGED]

c. One copy of the following:

1. [UNCHANGED]

2. [UNCHANGED]

3. [UNCHANGED]

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- 4. [UNCHANGED]
- 5. [UNCHANGED]
- 6. ~~An application for sign permit, if any sign is proposed.~~
- 7. [UNCHANGED]
- 8. [UNCHANGED]
- 9. [UNCHANGED]
- 10. [UNCHANGED]
- 11. [UNCHANGED]
- 12. [UNCHANGED]
- 13. [UNCHANGED]

- d. [UNCHANGED]
 - (2) [UNCHANGED]
 - (3) [UNCHANGED]
- (b) [UNCHANGED]
- (c) [UNCHANGED]
- (d) Issuance of Conditional Approval
 - (1) [UNCHANGED]
 - (2) [UNCHANGED]
 - (3) [UNCHANGED]
 - (4) [UNCHANGED]
 - (5) [UNCHANGED]
- (6) The Director of Community Planning and Development shall refuse to issue a conditional approval if the applicant, or any owner, partner, director, or officer of the applicant, or any entity owned or controlled in whole or part by the applicant or any owner, partner, director, or officer of the applicant, previously submitted an application and failed to commence either operation or construction within one year from the time the Township grants the special use permit for the same permitted property.
- (7) [UNCHANGED]
- (e) [UNCHANGED]
- (f) [UNCHANGED]
- (g) [UNCHANGED]
- (h) [UNCHANGED]
- (i) [UNCHANGED]
- (j) [UNCHANGED]

Section 3. Section 40-31, Operational requirements for commercial medical marijuana facilities, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A commercial medical marihuana facility issued a permit under this chapter and operating in the Township shall at all times comply with the operational requirements found in Section 40-73, which the Township Board may review and amend from time to time as it determines reasonable.

Section 4. Validity and Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the Ordinance.

1 **Section 5.** Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith are
2 hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and
3 effect.
4

5 **Section 6.** Savings Clause. This Ordinance does not affect rights and duties matured, penalties
6 that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun, before its effective date.
7

8 **Section 7.** Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective seven (7) days after its publication
9 or upon such later date as may be required under Section 402 of the Michigan Zoning
10 Enabling Act (MCL 125.3402) after filing of a notice of intent to file a petition for a
11 referendum.
12

13 ADOPTED by the Charter Township of Meridian Board at its regular meeting this **XX**th day of
14 **XXXXXXX**, 2023.
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18 _____
Patricia Herring Jackson, Township Supervisor

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22 _____
Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk
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To: Board Members
From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager
Date: February 17, 2023
Re: BWL Board of Commissioners Appointment

The Board of Water and Light (BWL) has notified us that Meridian Township's seat on their Board takes effect on July 1, 2023. The seat is rotated amongst Meridian Township, Delhi Township, Dewitt Township and Lansing Township. Meridian held the one year seat on the BLW Board in 2015 and 2019. For your review, I've attached a summary of BWL appointments dating back to 2015.

The specific Charter provision is below:

The Board of Water and Light Board Members shall include three non-voting advisory members representing utility customer communities outside the City of Lansing. Each non-voting advisory member shall be a Board of Water and Light customer, shall reside in and be appointed by the governing body of the municipality. One member shall represent the City of East Lansing and shall serve a term of four (4) years commencing July 1. One member shall represent Delta Township and shall serve a term of four (4) years commencing July 1. One member shall be at-large and shall represent the remaining municipalities and shall serve a term of one (1) year commencing July 1. The at-large representative shall serve on a rotating annual basis and be appointed by the governing body of the following municipalities in succession: Meridian Township, Delhi Township, DeWitt Township and Lansing Township. Except as provided herein, Section 2-103, Section 5-105, or State law, the provisions of this Charter shall not apply to the non-voting advisory members of the Board of Water and Light.

Mike Froh, who resides in Wardcliff, has served as our representative in both 2015 and 2019. The issue of representation on the BWL Board of Directors resulted from the massive ice storm that gripped our community on December 21, 2013. You may recall hundreds of Meridian BWL customers were without power for up to 11 days.

Please provide direction to the administration on how you wish to manage the appointment going forward.

Attachment:

1. BWL Commissioners 2015 to Present

LANSING BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT

NON-VOTING ADVISORY MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Start Date</u>	<u>Term End Date</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
1. Larry Merrill	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2023	Delta Township
2. Doug Jester	November 14, 2017	June 30, 2023	City of East Lansing
3. Maggie Sanders	July 1, 2022	June 30, 2023	Lansing Township

FORMER NON-VOTING ADVISORY MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Start Date</u>	<u>Term End Date</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
1. Michael Froh*	2015	2016	Meridian Township
2. Stuart Goodrich*	2016	2017	Delhi Township
3. Robert (Bob) Nelson	2015	9-26-2017 (R)	City of East Lansing
4. Rod Taylor*	2017	2018	DeWitt Township
5. Brian Ross*	January 17, 2018	June 30, 2018	DeWitt Township
6. William (Bill) Long	July 1, 2015	June 30, 2019	Delta Township
7. Dion'trae Hayes*	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2019	Lansing Charter Twsp
8. Michael Froh*	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2020	Meridian Township
9. Stuart Goodrich	July 1, 2020	June 30, 2021	Delhi Township
10. Brian Ross	July 1, 2021	June 30, 2022	DeWitt Township

Township=Twsp

* Rotating position with 1-year term to include: Meridian Township, Delhi Township, Dewitt Township and Lansing Township beginning July 1, 2015. Term runs July 1st through June 30th.

(R)=Resigned



To: Board Members

From: Frank L. Walsh, Township Manager & Amber Clark, Neighborhoods and Economic Development Director

Date: February 17, 2023

Re: March 7 Village of Okemos Community Conversation Cancellation

The Township Board, in response to comments from residents, selected March 7, 2023 as the date to hold a public meeting regarding the status of the Village of Okemos Project. The date was confirmed with the Village of Okemos Development Team to be available and present in person to meet with our community. Public notifications were sent through various channels, informing residents of the meeting date. Thursday, February 16, the developer notified Director Clark they cannot attend the March 7 meeting. The developers have requested to meet with Township Staff, Township Manager and possibly a Board Member to continue discussion related to the project. The developer is more than agreeable to set a new date for a Community Conversation.

On Tuesday night, we are hopeful the Board will provide direction on how to move forward.