

CITY OF LANSING - BOARD OF ETHICS

REGULAR MEETING

August 10, 2021, 5:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM

2500 SOUTH WASHINGTON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

- ☐ Keith Kris
 - ☐ R Cole Bouck, Chairperson
 - ☐ Connie Doyle
 - ☐ Janielle Houston, Vice-Chairperson
 - ☐ Aini Abukar
 - ☐ John Folkers
 - ☐ Lori Adams Simon

A Quorum is: ☐ Present

☐ Not Present

☐ Others Present:

PUBLIC COMMENT (TIME LIMIT OF 5 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ☐ As Submitted ☐ With Changes Noted

SECRETARY'S REPORT ☐ Approval of Minutes:

Communications from Greg Kemppainen regarding Code Compliance Violation Notice at 1117 Woodbine Ave.

NEW BUSINESS

Affidavit of Disclosure

Statement of Financial Interest Ellesy Sosebee Department of Police

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

CHAIRPERSON'S

REPORT ADJOURNMENT

Karac Brown, Code Officer
Economic Development & Planning
Code Enforcement Office
316 N. Capitol, Ste C-1
Lansing, MI 48933

June 14, 2021

Regarding: Incorrect Violation Notice at 1117 Woodbine Ave

Dear Ms. Brown,

I would like to lodge a formal complaint about the uncompassionate, threatening, mistaken and unnecessary abuse of power exhibited by the Lansing Code Enforcement Office, Economic Development and Planning Division, expressed in the boilerplate language used by Karac Brown in a recent letter to myself (see copy enclosed). JUN28'21 1PMCLERK

Covid has affected us all and with the end in sight neighborhoods and neighbors are coming together having survived the largest pandemic in a century. We are also working to survive the political and racial division that has been sewn by the last administration. When I received this letter, I was enraged for many reasons and here are a few:

1. My neighbor Harold, who is 89 years old and whose wife passed away, had her mattress and box spring that were in excellent condition put out to the road to offer it to anyone wanting a free bed. The mattress was taken immediately and they said they would come back for the box spring. It was still there when I left to work a few days out of the city. The first mistake is that the letter was sent to the wrong person, the wrong address. It was not my box spring. The second mistake is that it was not a "deteriorated box spring". Had someone taken the time to come look at it, they would have quickly realized that it was not trash or debris.

2. The threatening nature of the boilerplate language and the automatic sending out of such a disrespectful warning without finding out the facts, without stopping and asking what is going on or calling and speaking directly to those involved, only adds to the post-Covid frustration of Lansing residents and the divisive bureaucratic power dynamics. I would ask that the Mayor, the City Council and the Ethics Board review how Lansing residence are being treated and change it so that Lansing can build bridges instead of walls.

3. The selective enforcement has become a weapon of people like the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association's Neighborhood Watch coordinator who routinely causes harm to individuals he does not like, including myself. I have spoke with many individuals in the neighborhood who would like to come forward but are afraid their tires will be ice picked, their lawn and plants will be poisoned or they will become a target for selective enforcement actions based on phone calls to the Code Enforcement Office. My neighbor across the street had a bed headboard out on the curb at the same time that Harold had the box spring out. Why would he not get a violation notice? Selective enforcement? I walked around the neighborhood and saw several things that people were giving away out on the street. Did

they all get violation letters? Probably not, because Code Enforcement usually only acts when there is a complaint.

I would ask that the Economic Development and Planning Code Enforcement Office take a kinder and gentler approach to dealing with a public and citizenry that has survived a pandemic. Please make Lansing a better place to live by removing the threats and abusive language. The only thing that makes me want to do is to take legal action against the persons involved. If you had come and spoke to me in a courteous manner, you could have figured out that you were sending the letter to the wrong person and you would be making a friend instead of using your power to make enemies.

If you want to pursue this course of action, I will sue everyone involved personally for wrongful and selective enforcement and violating my rights by threatening to increase my property taxes and harming me financially for your mistake. I would hope that we can come together to correct this situation and make sure that people are treated with the respect and kindness they deserve, including yourself.

Blessings,

Greg Kemppainen

1117 Woodbine Avenue, Lansing

Text me at (517)803-7961 and I will call back (my phone is broke).

CC: Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor

Brian McGrain, EDP Director

Lansing City Council Members

Lansing Ethics Board Members ←



Andy Schor Mayor

Economic Development & Planning Code Enforcement Office

316 N. Capitol, Ste C-1, Lansing, MI 48933-1238
(517) 483-4361 FAX (517) 377-0100

TRASH AND DEBRIS CORRECTION NOTICE

KEMPPAINEN GREGORY
PO BOX 10174
LANSING, MI 48901

Violation Date: 06/09/2021
Violation Location: 1117 WOODBINE AVE
Parcel No: 33-01-01-29-252-191
Compliance Due Date: June 16, 2021

You are hereby notified that this Office has found a violation of the City of Lansing Housing Code Section 302 EXTERIOR PROPERTY at the above referenced location.

Sec 308.1 Deteriorated box spring and or mattress

Failure to correct this violation by the Compliance Due Date shall cause this office to immediately hire a contractor to complete the cleanup. **Please be advised that moving the items to another area on the property does not bring the violation into compliance. If any other additional trash and/or debris (as defined in Section 302) is found on the premises by the contractor it will also be removed without additional notice.** The contractor's expenses plus a \$265.00 administrative services fee will be billed to you. If this bill is not paid within 30 days of the billing date, the amount will be assessed as a lien against your property. **Please be advised that, in an effort to discourage repeat offenses of this nature, the City will assess graduated fees from \$75.00 to \$300.00 for each time there is an additional premise violation at the violation address above during this calendar year.** If you have any questions or concerns about complying within the time indicated, you may contact me Monday through Friday between the hours of 8-9 AM or 12-1 PM for any questions or extensions.

Pursuant to Section 107.2 of the IPMC, you have the right to appeal this notice of violation. In accordance with Section 106.3 any action taken by the City on such premises shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

Code Officer: Karac Brown (517) 702 4750 Karac.Brown@lansingmi.gov

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

Taxpayer's Copy



CITY OF LANSING AFFIDAVIT OF DISCLOSURE

TO: CITY CLERK

DATE: 07/27/21 JUL 28 '21 9AMCLERK

I MANDI BEASINGER make the following disclosure under oath:
(Name)

PLEASE CHECK THE BOX AND FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE BLANKS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

☐ Yes ☐ No

- 1 ☒ I am an ☐ elected or ☐ appointed ☒ officer or ☐ employee of the City of Lansing holding the position of Sergeant in the Police Department.
- ☒ I am an immediate family member related to an elected or appointed officer or employee of the City of Lansing named _____, holding the position of _____ in the _____ Department.
- ☒ I am a Business Associate of an elected or appointed officer or employee of the City of Lansing named _____ holding the position of _____ in the _____ Department.
- 2 ☒ I may derive income or benefit directly or indirectly from the bidding of, negotiation of, solicitation of or entry into a contract with the City or from and City action detailed below. (Charter 5-505.1)
- ☒ I may have a conflict between a personal interest and the public interest, the nature of which is disclosed below. (Charter 5-505.2) [Chapter 290.04(I) of the Code of Ordinances]
- ☒ I may have a financial interest in a matter proposed to be acted upon by the City of Lansing as described below. [Chapter 290.04(I) of the Code of Ordinances]
- ☒ I make this disclosure because of a possible appearance that I may be in violation of or in conflict with the City of Lansing Ethics Ordinance as provided for in the Code of Ordinances and in the City Charter.
- 3 My City of Lansing position is:
☒ Full-time ☐ Part-time (less than 25 hours/wk.) ☐ Unpaid

ATTACHMENT TO AFFIDAVIT OF DISCLOSURE

Please provide additional information about your outside business or employment. Of special interest to the Board is how the activities of the business or employment may directly or indirectly affect the City. This disclosure is about information and is not an indication of any anticipated conflict of interest or suspected wrongdoing. Therefore, please describe for the Board what it is you actually do and be detailed and specific. You are not required to limit your disclosure only to the following questions. For each business, include in your answer such things as:

- What is the form of your business entity and what percentage do you own? ____;
Contract Employee - Keene Training and Consulting - 0%
- Are you self-employed? NO
- Who is your employer, if applicable? ____
KEENE Training and Consulting L.L.C.
- What are the things you actually do in the business? ____
Personal Safety Consulting

- Who are your clients and who receives your goods or services? ____
Private citizens and clients of Keene Training.

- How and where are your services performed? ____
Classroom presentations in the Mid-Michigan area.

- How often do you do outside work? 4-8 hours per month.

Does your business or employer contract with the City? NO

- In performing your business or outside employment, do you use any City facilities or equipment?

NO If so, describe: _____

- Is any of your business or employment conducted in the City? _____ If so, describe:

Services may be provided at private businesses and/or properties within the Lansing City limits.

- Does your business advertisement or circulars, if any, contain any reference to the City or your City employment? NO
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- Is there any additional information that you believe would assist the Board of Ethics in its review of your business or personal activities for potential conflicts of interest? If so, please describe: NO
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In providing this additional information, the Board of Ethics asks that you give special attention to the Conflicts of Interest section of the Charter found at 5-505.1 – 5-505.3. A copy is enclosed for your convenience.

PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL YOUR REASON(S) FOR SUBMITTING THIS DISCLOSURE AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU THINK A CONFLICT MAY/MAY NOT EXIST.

I am submitting this disclosure based on departmental guidelines. There are no perceived conflicts of interest. I will be providing general personal safety consulting.

I hereby certify that this disclosure is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

JUL 29 2021

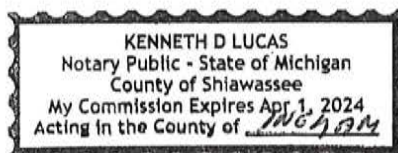
The foregoing Affidavit of Disclosure was executed on this _____ day of _____, 20____.



State of Michigan, County of _____

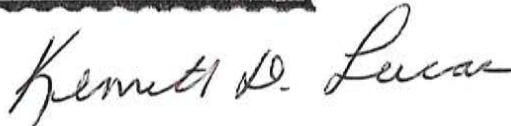
Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ gned day of _____, 20____

JUL 29 2021



Notary Public/or Deputy Clerk

County, Michigan
My Commission Expires: _____



CITY OF LANSING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST AND PERSONAL INTEREST

This statement must be completed by you and filed with the Lansing City Clerk no later than **May 1 of each year.**

Each and every part of this form must be completed. If you have no information to report, you must note that in that part of the form. If you feel a part is not applicable, you must state your reasoning. Forms with missing or incomplete information will be returned for completion.

The full text of the Financial Interests section 290.08 of the Ethics Ordinance and the Conflict of Interest section 5-505 of the City Charter are attached to this disclosure to assist in the full completion of this form. For additional guidance, please contact the Office of the City Attorney.

----- Reporting Individual to Complete – Basic Filing Information

Name of Reporting Individual Ellery Sosebee
Job Title Police Chief Name of Supervisor _____

I, make the foregoing disclosure parts I-IX under oath and assert the statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Signature _____

Date 7/1/21

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF Ingham)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 1st day of July,
2021 (year), by Tracy L. Scott (Notary Signature)
Tracy L. Scott (Print Name)

Notary Public, Ingham County,

Acting in Ingham County,

My Commission Expires: 4-14-27

TRACY L. SCOTT Notary Public, State of Michigan County of Ingham My Commission Expires Apr. 14, 2027 Acting in the County of <u>Ingham</u>
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Report Terms

For purpose of your disclosures in this form, the following words have the defined meaning:

1. "Benefit" includes the receipt, directly or indirectly, of any payment, gift, grant, pass through to another, forbearance, service, good, real property, personal property, or any other right, title or interest of value.
2. "Organization," includes for profit and nonprofit corporation, partnership, association, club, limited liability company, any group acting as a unit, or any other legal entity.
3. "Past" means the preceding calendar year (past 12 months) from the time this disclosure is filed.
4. "Present" means at the time this disclosure is filed.
5. "City" means City of Lansing
6. "Immediate Family" means a child of an individual, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or individual's spouse as a dependent under the Internal Revenue Code, or the parents, parents-in-law, brothers, sisters, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, stepparents, stepbrothers or stepsisters of an individual.

Part I

List each and every organization (other than the City) in which you are an officer, director, associate, partner, proprietor or employee, or served in any advisory capacity and from which any income in excess of \$2500 was derived during the preceding calendar year (past 12 months).

Organization's Name	Address	Type of Organization	Your Function/Title	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A				

Part II

List any capital asset located within the city of Lansing, including the address or legal description of real estate, from which you realized a capital gain of \$5,000 or more in the past (12 months). Do not include any gain from the sale of your principal place of residence.

Asset	Description
N/A	

Part III

List each and every past (12 months) and present unit of government, other than the City, for which you are or have been employed.

Unit of Government	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A	

Part IV

List each and every person, or organization from which you received in the past (12 months), or that has presently promised you, one or more gifts or honoraria having an aggregate value in excess of \$500. This does not include gifts from relatives, nor a campaign contribution or expenditure required to be recorded or reported under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

Name	Address of Principle Residence	Nature of Gift	Value of Gift	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A				

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Part V

List each and every name of and instrument of ownership in any organization conducting business within the city of Lansing in which you, or a member of your Immediate Family had or have a financial interest in the past (12 months) or present. Ownership interests in publicly held corporations need not be disclosed.

Name	Address	Instrument of Ownership	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A			

Part VI

Identify each and every parcel of real property, past (12 months) or present, and describe your right, title or interest, or your financial interest in the parcel if the city of Lansing may also possess a real property interest or maintain public utility improvements in the parcel. Include all forms of your direct ownership or indirect ownership such as partnerships or trusts of which the corpus consists primarily of real estate. Do not include your principle place of residence. Include real property both within and outside the city of Lansing.

Address or Description of Real Estate	Nature of Right or Interest	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A		

Part VII

List each and every person or organization that has applied to the City for a license, franchise, or permit, or requested annexation, zoning or rezoning of real property, past (12 months) or present, if you, or a member of your Immediate Family has a financial interest in such a person or organization. Include the nature of the City action requested.

Name of Contracting Person or Organization	Names of Applicable Immediate Family Member(s)	Nature of Interest	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A			

Part VIII

List each and every person or organization doing independent contracting business with the City in which you, or a member of your immediate family, had (within the past 12 months) or currently have a financial interest or personal interest. Include the title and description of any position held by you, or the member of your Immediate Family, in the organization.

Name of Person or Organization	Nature of Financial Interest	Title or Description of Position Held by Reporting Individual or Immediate Family	Past 12 Months or Present
N/A			

Part IX

If you, your Immediate Family, or any organization you are required to disclose under Part I, had or have in the past (12 months) or present, a contract, agreement, arrangement or participate in a program with the City that directly or indirectly benefits you, your Immediate Family, or the organization you must provide:

- A written statement containing a detailed description and explanation of the contract, agreement, arrangement or program and the nature of involvement and participation therein by you, your Immediate Family or the organization and describe all the beneficiaries thereof.
- Provide separate written statements for each contract agreement, arrangement and program and include a full and complete statement of the program, performance, beneficiaries, compensation, duties and obligations therein.

Please note that this disclosure is intended to include contracts, agreements, and arrangements that are formal or informal, written or oral, and direct or indirect.