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AUG 20 2019

CITY OF EAST LANSING  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Mayor Mark Meadows  
City council members Draheim, Beier, Stephens and Altmann  
City Manager George Lahanas

Dear City of East Lansing government leaders:

We are writing as concerned residents of the city regarding the possibility of giving up our city court to county administrative control and consolidating it with the courts representing all other jurisdictions in Ingham County. We think it's important to have judges who live in our community and are sensitive to the needs of our neighborhoods and the impact the student population has on our city.

What is the benefit *to our residents of East Lansing* to give up local affiliation with our court? Why hasn't the public been given effective notice by the council that it is considering this consolidation? We would like the opportunity to be heard and to be told all the factors being considered in any such decision.

Our court is conveniently located downtown. While the plan is apparently to keep it there, we understand there is no guarantee at all that the county will continue to house a court here which is convenient to *all* our residents. Our city has laws which help protect all our citizens and our quality of life. How will the needs of our diverse population be prioritized and treated by a county court? Can you guarantee the legislation will be changed to continue to allow East Lansing judicial elections and that in the future it will not be changed back to county wide elections which may result in no East Lansing judges? Can you guarantee there will always be judges who are East Lansing residents when we represent only 17% of the county electorate?

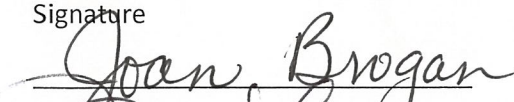
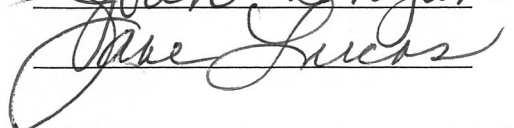
Our citizens were given a chance to vote on the income tax proposal. Why aren't we being given a chance to vote on the important issue of giving up our court to the county?

We choose to live here and to pay some of the highest property taxes in the county along with a new income tax. Why is *our* council not representing *our* interests in keeping *our* court? Why is *our* council apparently concerned with convenience issues for citizens who have chosen to live outside our city limits? When the new income tax was passed the mayor and council promised it was to preserve city services. The court is an important local city service.

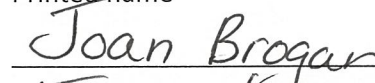
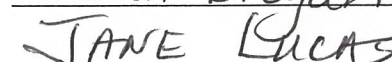
We oppose the transfer of our court to the county. We ask that council members vote no. We also ask that before any vote the people of East Lansing be given an opportunity to have their voices heard at well-advertised meetings like those on the tax issues. At the very least we need our judges and council members to attend to explain to us how this benefits or disadvantages our citizens.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed name

 944 Walbridge  
 1314 Javistock Pl

Signature

Michael Andary  
 William Andary  
 Steven Andary  
 Tim Campbell  
 Kenneth U. Lucas  
 Eric Brogan  
 Caroline Andary  
 Lauren Bertsch  
 Libby Kirschner  
 Josh Kirschner  
 Lynley Watters  
 Therese Watters  
 Deborah Robinson  
 Ashley Ahlin  
 Lynsey Little Clayton  
 Mera J. Conover  
 David Brogan  
 Jessica Flores  
 Marcelo Flores III  
 Erik Higest  
 Timothy Brussow

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 Marcelo Flores III  
 ERIK HIGEST  
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