



The City
of Grandville

CITY HALL

3195 Wilson Avenue
Grandville, MI 49418-1274
Phone 616.531.3030
Fax 616.530.4984

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 11, 2014

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council
678 Front Ave NW
Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Dear Grand Valley Metropolitan Council:

On behalf of the City of Grandville and its City Council we would like to offer the attached resolution approved by the Council on February 10 encouraging the State of Michigan to use State budget surplus funds to reinvest in government at the local level.

As I'm sure you are aware, for more than a decade local governments in the State of Michigan have taken tremendous hits from legislative cuts to what was formerly known as statutory revenue sharing. In Grandville's case, those funds were cut from over \$500,000 in 2001 to just \$34,000 today. In order to make up for this loss, staffing has been reduced and services to our local residents and businesses have been cut, negatively impacting the quality of life for our nearly 16,000 residents. Compounding the problem is the limitations imposed on local governments by the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A which combine to limit local revenue growth, even as property values have begun to rise.

An opportunity now exists to recognize how critical the shared revenues previously axed by the State are to making our cities the vibrant places Michigan needs them to be if they are to contribute to and sustain the recovery of this state. Small, incremental increases are not enough. Please consider bold action to restore these vital funds to Michigan local governments.

Sincerely,

Steve Maas
Mayor



RESOLUTION NO. 3050

**CITY OF GRANDVILLE
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN**

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Grandville, County of Kent, Michigan, duly called and held in the City Hall in said City, 3195 Wilson Avenue SW, on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. there were:

PRESENT: Council Members Cook, Gelderloos, Meringa, Pettijohn, Richter, Steenstra and Mayor Maas

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Council Member Cook and seconded by Council Member Steenstra:

**A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE STATE
LEGISLATURE TO USE THE STATE BUDGET SURPLUS TO
RESTORE FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, for more than a decade municipalities in the State of Michigan have been confronted with significantly reduced revenues due to economic recession, decline of property values and extensive and repetitive reductions in State Shared Revenue by the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the City of Grandville received nearly \$550,000 in statutory State Shared Revenue and in 2013 received only \$34,000; and

WHEREAS, the combined impact of the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A make it impossible for municipal revenues to recover even as property values begin to rise; and

WHEREAS, due to this unrelenting fiscal pressure, the City of Grandville has been compelled to reduce staffing and the level of municipal services historically provided to the residents, businesses and schools in our community; and

WHEREAS, these municipal services protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and are an essential component of building a strong local economy and maintaining a vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, despite the demonstrated fiscal care taken by the City of Grandville and even with reduced staffing and services, this reduction in revenue has resulted in deficit budgets for the City since 2001 with the deficits covered by increased reliance on limited fund balance; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2014 a State budget surplus was announced which in part is a result of the Governor and Michigan Legislature taking approximately \$6 billion over the past decade that by law was to go to local communities to fund police and fire services, road maintenance, snow plowing, parks and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Grandville asks the Legislature to recognize that now is a critical time to reinvest in communities and to fulfill its obligation to local units of government to enable them to provide essential services such as police and fire, make critical infrastructure improvements and create vibrant places that attract and retain talent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Grandville urges the Legislature to use the identified State budget surplus to restore funds to local governments; replacing those local revenues that were taken to plug holes in the state budget resulting in the fiscal crises facing many local communities across Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon its passing, this Resolution shall be expeditiously transmitted to Governor Rick Snyder; Representative Rob VerHeulen; Senator Arlan Meekhof; Speaker of the House Jase Bolger; House Minority Leader Tim Griemel; Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville; Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer; the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance; the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections; the Senate Committee on Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing; the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations; the House Committee on Local Government; the House Committee on Financial Liability; the Michigan Municipal League; and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

YEAS: Council Members Cook, Gelderloos, Meringa, Pettijohn, Richter, Steenstra and Mayor Maas

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Grandville, County of Kent, State of Michigan, at a meeting held on February 10, 2014 the original of which is on file in my office and available to the public. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for said meeting.

Dated: February 11, 2014

Mary L. Meines
Mary L. Meines, Grandville City Clerk

