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# LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

**To:** East Lansing City Council  
**From:** Steve Japinga, Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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As East Lansing City Council comes together tonight to welcome a new Council member and select Council leadership, we see this as an opportunity for new beginnings.

East Lansing residents and business have identified Legacy Cost, Infrastructure and Jobs and Economy as top priorities. We encourage City Council to reconvene its Financial Health Team to assist in developing a strategic and fiscally responsible approach to manage the city's financial challenges while creating an environment that encourages economic growth and job creation.

Now is the time to reprioritize budget needs. Just as East Lansing families and businesses determine their annual budget, the city must prioritize your needs and wants, which undoubtedly will require difficult decisions. We believe there's an opportunity for City Council, Financial Health Team, businesses and residents to define East Lansing's core services.

The interest and support for regional collaboration is a reflection of the public's desire to combine resources and collectively improve our communities. We hope City Council shares the same desires to continue collaboration with neighboring municipalities, Michigan State University and the business community.

East Lansing plays a significant role in our regions prosperity and we look forward to working together to build a stronger city and region.