



Press Release

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Cities Move to Disband Greater Lansing Taxi Authority *Dissolution of Regional Group Prompted by New State Law*

(LANSING/EAST LANSING) – Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows today announced that they will seek the approval of their respective City Councils to disband the Greater Lansing Taxi Authority (GLTA). The move was prompted by a new state law that prohibits local communities from regulating taxi companies and transportation network companies (TNC), like Uber and Lyft, which will now be regulated by the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

Although the new state law authorizes the GLTA's Articles of Incorporation to remain in effect for the next four years, the law does not permit local governments to enforce ordinances that regulate the operation of taxi companies and TNCs, with limited exceptions. Because the GLTA's legal authority to regulate taxis and TNCs is derived from its member jurisdiction's police powers, the GLTA would exist in name only and have no underlying legal authority to enforce their rules and regulations, including background checks on drivers and safety inspections of their vehicles.

"Despite a long and successful history of local governments regulating local taxi companies to ensure passenger safety, state lawmakers decided to eliminate local control in this area," said Mayor Bernero. "The responsibility for making sure that taxi companies and TNCs operate safely now falls entirely on the State of Michigan."

"While I am happy that alternative transportation has developed a popular following, I admit that I have very little confidence that the state will pay the same attention to passenger safety and keeping predators from operating taxis, or Lyft or Uber vehicles," said Mayor Meadows. "But, it is pointless for us to continue an authority which will now have no purpose."

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The GLTA was formed in 2015 as a new regional organization with broad authority to establish uniform regulations for taxi companies and TNCs across the Lansing region. Prior to its formation, Lansing and East Lansing had different standards for the licensing and operation of taxi companies. The authority was established by the cities of East Lansing and Lansing and included non-voting representatives from Michigan State University, Capital Region International Airport and the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau. Several Lansing area townships also joined the authority.

The Lansing City Council is expected to consider a resolution to dissolve the GLTA at their meeting on Monday, May 22. The East Lansing City Council will consider a similar resolution at their meeting the following night.

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