

Economic Vitality Incentive Program

Cooperation, Collaboration, and Consolidation Plan as of February 1, 2013

Local Unit Name: City of Ecorse

County: Wayne

This information is available on the City's web site at <http://ecorsemi.gov/> and is also available in written form at the City Administrator's Office at 3869 West Jefferson, Ecorse, MI 48229.

The City of Ecorse previously submitted a report for the first year as required dated December 2011 which is included in this submittal.

The first portion of this submittal is the Update of last year's report to show progress/changes which have occurred during the last year. The second portion of this submittal will discuss new proposals.

Update of First Year's Report

Page 1 outlines 5 areas of Regional Initiative regarding Public Works which continue to be in effect. No change is reported for this page. These are on-going programs of cooperation.

Page 2 initially outlines 5 additional items pertaining to Public Works. Items 6, 7, 9, and 10 are still on going and are accurately described. Item 8 pertains to the manufacture of Street Signs.

City of Ecorse has been utilizing the City of Monroe's sign shop to make street signs. This has saved the City of Ecorse approximately \$ 5,000 per year. Ecorse has avoided the necessity of investing in equipment and training by utilizing the expertise of the City of Monroe. This has also been of benefit to Monroe.

The City of Ecorse has also benefited by having the signs installed by DPS crews from the City of Lincoln Park. This has also saved Ecorse another \$ 5,000 per year and avoided the cost of equipment and labor. This has also been of benefit to the City of Lincoln Park.

The City of Ecorse intends to continue this program with the Cities of Monroe and Lincoln Park as long as it is financially beneficial to Ecorse.

Also on Page 2 under the category of Police, item 1 is a description of the Federal Cops Grant. As of 12/31/12 the City has utilized approximately \$ 148,000 of this grant. The balance is expected to be expended by 12/31/13.

Page 3 has a description of seven other cooperative efforts by the Police Department with other Law Enforcement Units. These are all still continuing programs that have provided significant assistance and financial savings to the City of Ecorse. One direct benefit is the purchasing of Police cars annually through the State Purchasing Network.

Page 4 describes six areas of mutual cooperation in the Fire Department. Although the City now has combined the Fire and Police Department into one Safety Department (as described later), these are all still beneficial cooperative efforts with other governmental units in the area of Fire Fighting. In respect to Item 1, the City has now completed the expenditure of the \$ 395,000 SAFER Grant. In respect to Item 5, the City continues to

utilize \$ 50,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds per year towards the payoff of the remaining debt on the 2009 Ladder Truck.

CDBG Grants are also discussed on Pages 4 & 5. Item 1 on page 4 was previously completed as was Item 2 on page 5. The City continues to receive CDBG funds through Wayne County as described later.

Page 5 describes the Cooperative Effort by the City of Ecorse and the Ecorse Public Schools to share facilities. The school continues to expand programs which are of benefit to the citizens of Ecorse at no additional expense to the City. Further School/City proposed cooperation is described below.

Page 5 also describes the cooperative efforts of the State and the City to secure changes in state law which allows for a third party to collect property taxes. This allowed the City to secure good bids on the bonds that were sold by the City. It also facilitated the reorganization of the City Treasurer's office eliminating one position. This annually saves the City at least \$ 25,000 plus the long term costs of health care and pension benefits for that position.

Page 5 makes clear the benefits to both the City of Ecorse and the City of River Rouge by sharing Library staff. Continuing to operate with only two part time employee results in the annually estimated \$ 150,000 savings.

Page 6 proceeds to describe other internal organization changes that were implemented in the past in various Departments. Item 10 on Page 7 describes past changes in other Departments.

Beginning on Page 7 and continuing on Page 8 the Proposed Additionally Regional Areas of Cooperation are described.

Item 1 on Page 7 describes the Agreement of Cooperation which was agreed to by both the City of Ecorse and Lincoln Park. Having accomplished this, the Cities have continued to explore areas of mutual benefit. The installation of signs by Lincoln Park was described previously. Lincoln Park assists Ecorse with snow removal, purchasing supplies, and utilization of some of their vendors for services. Ecorse has saved a substantial amount of funds by using the Lincoln Park contractor for removing debris from projects. The two cities are a year

into this process and are studying further ways to cooperate that are beneficial to both cities.

One obstacle to this process was that the City Manager of Lincoln Park left to take another position. The process of appointing a new City Manager delayed some of the efforts. The State appointing the Emergency Financial Manger to serve in two other EFM positions reducing her to part time also affected this. But the City hired their first City Administrator who started work in November 2012. He has an extensive background both as a Public Works Director and as a City Administrator. His focus on this area as well as the reorganization of the DPS operation as described below should facilitate further cooperative efforts with Lincoln Park or possibly other communities.

On Page 7, the EVIP Grant Application is described. This grant was jointly awarded to the cities of Ecorse and River Rouge and the District Court. Ecorse's share of about \$ 400,000 was used to cross train Police Officers in Fire Fighting skills. It also paid for overtime needed to cover the City while some officers were in training. It also paid for needed Fire Protection Gear. The result to date

is that most of the Police Officers are now Public Safety Officers (PSO's). The balance are expected to complete their training by June 30, 2013. The Act 312 process also resulted in the Arbitrator ruling regarding the Police Union contract that the City was mandated to proceed with a Public Safety Department. The Police officers were moved from 8 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts as part of this process. The City has now combined the Police and Fire Departments into a Public Safety Department. The City did not replace two Police Lieutenants who retired and replaced a Fire Lieutenant and Fire Sergeant who retired with two lower ranking Fire Fighters. The estimated amount saved is over \$ 900,000 annually.

The grant money to River Rouge also trained many of their Police and Fire Fighters to be PSO's. The automatic mutual aid along with the PSO's should put more personnel on the road to fight any fire.

Also under the EVIP was the proposed merger of the River Rouge and Ecorse Courts into the Ecorse City Hall. This was accomplished in April 2012. However, the State also decided to merge these courts with the Lincoln Park Court. Although the merger has taken place, the

movement of the court offices and staff to Lincoln Park will occur effective June 30, 2013.

On Page 8 there were two proposals concerning the Public Works. The citizens of Ecorse now are able to take paper to the Lincoln Park Public Works Building for disposal at no cost to them or to Ecorse. The further implementation of the recycling center has been delayed by Lincoln Park. Ecorse is waiting to hear when they may decide to proceed.

The Street Lighting Assessment took place in cooperation with DTE (Detroit Edison). About \$ 40,000 was saved by the City during 2012. DTE and the City are continuing to explore options for further savings in this area. More should be accomplished during 2013.

Regarding the CDBG grant through Wayne County described on page 8, there were 10 houses demolished by Wayne County in 2012 at no cost to the City of Ecorse. The City also entered a cooperative program with the Ecorse City Schools. The City gave three dilapidated houses to the School to be rehabilitated by their building trade classes. When completed, the school system will sell the houses. It is anticipated that when this process is

completed the City and School will be able to continue this with additional houses that need repaired.

The City has also allocated \$ 25,000 of the 2013 CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation. The City is working with Wayne County to demolish another 4-5 houses and with a private church to rehabilitate 2-3 houses.

The funding of the Ciungan Park improvements through the Land and Water Grant and the State Trust Fund Grant have encountered some problems. The City is awaiting clarification and resolution of these matters.

Proposed Service Consolidations

- 1.** The City of Ecorse is working with the State of Michigan to evaluate the conditions of its Sanitary Sewer System. A \$ 250,000 grant has been awarded to the City to accomplish this. The goal is to improve the conditions of the Sanitary Sewer System. The work is anticipated being completed in 2013.
- 2.** The City and the Ecorse School District have been seeking funds through the EVIP Grant Program to combine our Recreation Program. This will better

utilize the school facilities and remove the supervision of the Recreation Program from the City's responsibilities. It will result in a more extensive recreation program for the citizens and students than the City of Ecorse is able to afford at this time. The start of the project is dependent on the award of a EVIP Grant by the State. However, upon award of the grant the transition should be accomplished by the summer of 2013.

3. Internally the City is in the process of a major overhaul of the Public Works Department and the Building Department. A study was commissioned to evaluate the operations of the Building Department. A number of areas of potential improvement were identified by McKenna Associates. The City is advertising for two part time positions at this time. By April 1, Ecorse anticipates that these would be filled. This would result in 1.5 FTE positions in the DPS replaced by a .75 FTE Supervisor. This would eliminate the higher paid Public Works Director position and a part time DPS Assistant. The Building Department Supervisor will be replaced with a lower paid part

time employee. Also the Full time City Engineer will be reduced to on call part time as needed. It is anticipated these changes will result in better service to the citizens and save a minimum of \$ 50,000/year.

4. The City has eliminated two part time positions at the City's boat launch site on the Detroit River. The operation will be put out to competitive bid and it is anticipated the City will see a \$ 25,000 annual savings.
5. The City of Ecorse in cooperation with the City of River Rouge and Wayne Metro has applied for a demolition grant through MSHDA. The grant was submitted on 12/12/12 and will be awarded in February 2013.

In Summary, the City of Ecorse has been successful in improving the quality of life for our citizens as well as saving money in the City operations over the past several years through cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation. The City of Ecorse realizes that cooperative efforts with other communities are essential for the future of Ecorse.