

# Memo

**To:** Mayor Hall  
**From:** Sanya Vitale  
**cc:** City Council  
**Date:** 05/09/2023  
**Re:** Market Van Buren Contribution Request

---

Market Van Buren has the principal responsibilities for economic and community development throughout Van Buren and Cass Counties. MVB connects people, investments, and organizations with strategies and services that improve the quality of life and economic conditions in our region. Their staff focuses on developing strategies that will allow communities to thrive by addressing needs related to workforce, community, and business development.

Market Van Buren works to identify available resources for new employers seeking sites to locate their businesses- including availability and proximity of utilities and transit lines, available incentives from the State, and liaising with all levels of government.

Market Van Buren also works with businesses to identify available funding to support site improvements and workforce benefits as well as grants and funding resources.

Market Van Buren offers every community in Van Buren County their services at a rate based on the community's status as:

1. City or Township
2. Taxable Value
3. Population

With lower rates for townships, lower taxable values and smaller populations.

The City of Hartford does not have the capacity to hire a Community and Economic Development Director and while I have a solid background in community development, my time is split in a number of directions. I recommend that the City partner with Market Van Buren for the provision of community and economic development services as outlined in their Invoice for Fees for Services and request that Market Van Buren sign the attached Service Agreement.