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## COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

**MEETING DATE:** June 9, 2025

**TOPIC:** Approval of Joint Off-Premises Tasting Room License

**BACKGROUND BRIEF:**

Michigan By The Bottle 2025 LLC (MBTB) has submitted an application to open a new joint off-premises tasting room at 146 S Broadway, Suite 150, Lake Orion, a property owned by Jeff Schmitz. MBTB is an established business with existing joint tasting room locations in Shelby Township (2012), Royal Oak (2015), and Auburn Hills (2017).

This proposed location would be MBTB's fourth in Michigan and will operate in partnership with 15 licensed Michigan wineries under a provision allowed by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC), specifically MCL 436.1537(10). The MLCC permits licensed Michigan wineries to collaborate and offer their products for tasting and sale at shared retail locations.

The business is managed and operated by Michigan By The Bottle 2025 LLC, whose ownership group includes Paul and Geoff Hamelin (Verterra Winery), and Sam and Taylor Simpson (Good Harbor Vineyards and Aurora Cellars). Three of the fifteen wineries involved are directly owned by the MBTB partners, further reinforcing the collaborative nature of the venture.

As part of the regulatory process, the MLCC requires local government approval for the off-premises tasting room license. The applicants have submitted a partially completed LCC-106c form for each participating winery and are seeking formal support from the Village Council to proceed.

The proposed license and business operation align with local ordinances and are expected to contribute positively to the economic vitality and vibrancy of the downtown district.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None directly associated with this action. Anticipated long-term benefits include increased downtown foot traffic and support for local economic development.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

To adopt Resolution No. 2025-019 recommending approval of the Joint Off-Premises Tasting Room License at 146 S Broadway, Suite 150 for the 15 listed Michigan wineries, and authorize the Village Clerk to complete and sign the Local Government Approval section (Form LCC-106c) of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission application.