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# AGENDA ITEM

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TO: Tim Vandall, City Administrator  
FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, Director, Community & Economic Development  
DATE: March 17, 2022  
SUBJECT: Graduation of 2021-2022 Citizens' Academy Participants

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MRS

**Explanation:** On March 17, 2022, seven (7) participants will graduate from the eleventh (12<sup>th</sup>) annual Lansing Citizens' Academy. The Citizens' Academy provides an interactive experience for participants to learn about the functions and responsibilities of each city department. Further, participants meet city staff members and learn about ways to volunteer on boards and commissions.

Sessions were held monthly from September 2021 through March 2022. The sessions were led by staff and held in department facilities or at City Hall. Each session lasted approximately two hours with an opportunity for participants to evaluate each session at the end. Participants have stated that they enjoy the opportunity to learn about the operations of the departments, meeting staff, and building a greater understanding of the intricacies of city government.

Staff is recommending that the city again offer the program in 2022-2023.

The graduates of the Lansing Citizens' Academy are as follows:

Amanda Siegner  
Jeff Wolters  
Bethany Magee  
Tamara Nickelsen  
Tiffany Andrews  
John Class  
Dan Clemons

**Policy Consideration:** No policy consideration

**Financial Consideration:** The costs are minimal and include folders, handouts, and snacks for the participants at sessions. The participants also receive plaques to signify their graduation from the program.

**Action:** Staff is requesting that Mayor McNeill present plaques to the graduates. Director Schmitz will be available to assist.