



27400 Southfield Rd
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
(248) 557-2600
www.lathrupvillage.org

Michigan Economic Development Corporation
ATTN: Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members
300 North Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913

September 4, 2024

RE: The Surnow Company Lathrup Village School Site Redevelopment Project Support

Michigan Strategic Fund Board Members:

The City of Lathrup Village proudly stands in full support of the proposed redevelopment of the historic former school site, a landmark location at the core of our Main Street District. This project is not merely a construction endeavor; it is a transformative opportunity to reinvigorate a key hub of our community. This initiative offers an unparalleled chance to rejuvenate a vital area of our community, turning a longstanding eyesore into a dynamic space that supports the creation of a lively urban environment, and the preservation of our City's rich history

The proposed project site features Lathrup Village's last remaining historic structure on Southfield Road, a landmark of great significance to our community. Strategically situated at the heart of our village center—adjacent to City Hall and bordering our largest green space, Annie Lathrup Park— makes it an essential site for revitalization. The old school has sat idle for decades with no interested parties coming forward with tangible plans to revitalize the largest parcel in our downtown core. Residents have long anticipated the rejuvenation of this unused space, and the Surnow Company's proposal presents the ideal solution to bring new life to this key area.

Currently, the building stands as a blemish on our landscape. The proposed plan will retain the structure's historical charm while updating it for modern use, injecting new energy into our downtown. This development will leave a lasting legacy for Lathrup Village.

As a well-established community with limited vacant land. This project offers a rare chance to introduce much-needed middle housing, while becoming a proud new symbol for our city. The proposal's commitment to public spaces will create a dynamic hub of activity and pride, contributing to the overall well-being and sustainability of the community. This joint public-private partnership has been meticulously developed over several years, with valuable input from residents, elected officials, and city administration to ensure this portion of our downtown is used in a way that maximizes its value and benefits the community.

This section of our Main Street and City is poised to undergo a transformative revitalization, thanks to substantial investments from both private and public sectors, which will breathe new life into the community. The City has recently secured several grants aimed at funding new public amenities around the proposed development site. Among these exciting initiatives, the National Fitness Campaign (NFC) has awarded the City a grant to install a state-of-the-art outdoor Fitness Court in Annie Lathrup Park.



27400 Southfield Rd
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
(248) 557 – 2600
www.lathrupvillage.org

In partnership with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the City has obtained funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Act, distributed by Oakland County, to address critical revitalization needs within our community. This funding will facilitate the installation of a new ADA-accessible playscape in Annie Lathrup Park, designed with universal design principles and strategically located near the proposed project site.

The DDA, with support from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), is also spearheading the installation of three HAWK (High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk) signals along Southfield Road. These signals represent a significant advancement in pedestrian safety and will greatly improve the walkability of our downtown area.

The City has also been awarded nearly \$3 million in Congressional and Michigan State Project Awards for water main projects to take place on Southfield Road adjacent to the school site. This funding will be utilized to address water mains that were originally installed in the late 1920s, to improve water flow and reliability throughout the City's northern half, which services approximately 1,200 residential homes and 50 businesses. The project will significantly increase fire protection and fire flow rates due to the increased pipe size and elimination of undersized, tuberculation-filled cast iron water mains.

Finally, the city is committed to enhancing the beauty of the City Hall grounds by planting new trees, shrubs, and other greenery, further elevating the aesthetic appeal of this central public space in our main street district.

The City of Lathrup Village is fully committed to supporting this development through our resources, partnerships, and continued collaboration with the Surnow Company. We believe that this project will act as a catalyst for further investment and improvements in our Main Street District, bringing lasting benefits to the entire community.

We respectfully urge the MEDC to approve the funding to support this transformative project. We are confident that it will have a profound and positive impact on Lathrup Village, fostering economic growth, enhancing the quality of life, and strengthening our local economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working together to bring this exciting development to life.

Sincerely,
