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MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission
From: Tom Kennedy – Community & Economic Development/DDA Project Coordinator
Date: September 16, 2025
RE: Public Hearing – Solar and Battery Storage Systems

Background

As part of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) certification process, the City of Lathrup Village has been discussing the implementation of a Solar Energy Systems ordinance. This effort fulfills Best Practice 2.6 (Green Infrastructure) and reflects city staff's determination that a solar ordinance is the most effective way to serve both our residents and the long-term sustainability goals of the community.

The proposed ordinance will:

- Protect residents from predatory practices by requiring city staff review of all solar energy system installation plans, thereby reducing the risk of scammers taking advantage of community members.
- Mandate fire prevention methods to ensure the safest possible operation of systems throughout the city.
- Provide guidance for decommissioning and repowering, ensuring that solar installations are properly addressed when homes change ownership or systems reach end-of-life.
- Establish design standards for both the historic district and the broader community, including requirements for appropriate methods of repairing historic structures.
- Incorporate future-proofing provisions to allow the ordinance to be easily amended as new technologies and best practices emerge in the solar energy field.

This ordinance has been under discussion since April and is now ready for the Planning Commission's consideration and approval. Following approval, city staff will begin drafting a Best

Practices Guidebook for prospective solar energy system owners. This guidebook will be modeled after the solar energy systems guidebook provided by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), which also served as a foundational reference for this ordinance.