



AGENDA REPORT

New Haven, Michigan

Meeting Type

MEETING DATE: 13 January 2026

DEPARTMENT: Village President

DATE SUBMITTED: 6 January 2026

PREPARED BY: Brian Meissen

ITEM TITLE: Prohibition of Non-Disclosure Agreements Ordinance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In recent years, non-disclosure agreements have increasingly been used across all levels of government in ways that go beyond protecting legitimate legal interests. Too often, they have become tools that limit public awareness, restrict accountability, and erode confidence in public institutions. While confidentiality has an important place in matters such as personnel records, legal strategy, and protected information, secrecy should never be the default for public business.

This ordinance draws a clear line:

- **Transparency is the rule.**
- **Confidentiality is the exception - and only when required by law.**

By aligning Village policy with Michigan's strong open-records principles and modern best practices in public governance, this ordinance ensures that residents can continue to see, understand, and trust how their local government operates. It affirms that public office carries a responsibility not just to make decisions, but to make them in a way that withstands public scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Prohibition of Non-Disclosure Agreements ordinance, solidifying decisions are made transparently and in the open.