



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Grand Ledge Announces Changes in Mayoral Leadership**

GRAND LEDGE, MI, June 14, 2018 — At the Grand Ledge City Council meeting on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Kalmin Smith announced his retirement with over 20 years of service and leadership in the Grand Ledge community. With five and a half terms as Mayor, he is the longest serving Mayor in the city's history. Citing the growing desire for him and his wife, Marsha to spend more time with their children and grandchildren in Texas, the Mayor led his final City Council meeting. "The best thing about the City of Grand Ledge is the people. It has been an honor to serve this community alongside numerous elected and appointed officials for all these years. It is the relationships and friendships that I will cherish the most." said Mayor Smith.

Dr. Kalmin Smith was appointed to serve on the Grand Ledge City Council in 1998 and was elected by his fellow Council Members as Mayor Pro-Tem in 2005. In 2007, the public elected him as Mayor. During his 11 years as Mayor he led the city forward, improving its infrastructure and streets, expanding its parks, enhancing community recreation, and volunteering with countless organizations. To honor his vision and initiative for a new City Hall, as well as his service and commitment to the community, the City Council dedicated the City Hall Council Chambers to Mayor Smith. A plaque will hang within Council Chambers in his honor.

To fill the Mayoral vacancy, Mayor Pro-Tem, Thom Sowle was appointed Mayor at this same meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem is now filled by Council Member, Keith Mulder.

"With his long-standing commitment and compassion for the City of Grand Ledge, Mayor Smith leaves a legacy of progress and positive growth that will be appreciated for generations to come." said Adam Smith, City Administrator. "In the same spirit of collaboration that Mayor Smith emulated, we whole-heartedly welcome Mayor Sowle and look forward to his leadership as we continue progress as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century community."

Mayor Sowle has served on City Council representing Ward 3 since 2012. In addition, Mayor Sowle's dedication to the Grand Ledge community extends through decades of work with Grand Ledge Public School.



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# Proclamation

Whereas, Kalmin Smith, PhD, was first appointed on 09 November 1998 to serve on the Grand Ledge City Council as a representative of Ward 2 and was subsequently elected to continue representing Ward 2 in 1999, and continued to represent the residents of Ward 2 for four terms, and was elected by his fellow Council Members as Mayor Pro-Tem in 2005; and

Whereas, Kalmin brought experience and knowledge to the City Council through his time serving as Acting Director of the Department of Labor, Senior Deputy Director of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services, and Senior Policy Advisor to the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and his through his Masters Degree in political theory and international relations, and his Doctorate Degree in political philosophy; and

Whereas, during his tenure as a Council Member, Kalmin served on the Accessibility Committee, Finance and Policy Committee, Human Resources Committee, Professional Services Committee, and Public Service and Facilities Committee, and served on the Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority Board of Directors and the Downtown Development Authority; and

Whereas, Kalmin was elected as Mayor on 06 November 2007 serving five-and-a-half terms, the longest-serving Mayor in Grand Ledge's history, retiring in 2018; and

Whereas, during Kalmin's eleven years as Mayor, he led the City forward, improving its infrastructure and streets, expanding its parks, enhancing community recreation opportunities, and improving its relationships with State and local entities; and

Whereas, Kalmin also served the Grand Ledge community by volunteering in numerous organizations and groups, including the Grand Ledge Area Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Ledge Community Band, the Grand Ledge Historical Society, the Grand Ledge Opera House Authority, the Grand Ledge Public Schools Community Impact Advisory Group, the Grand Ledge Rotary Club, the Grand Ledge St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Blessings in a Back Pack Steering Committee, the Caring Community Foundation, the Harmony Club, Holiday Wishes, the Ledges Playhouse Restoration Committee, Mudge's Follies, and the Grand Ledge Trinity Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, Kalmin and his wife, Marsha, now desire to move closer to their children and grandchildren, leaving behind a legacy of accomplishment and leadership;

Now, therefore, be it known to one and all, that I, the Mayor of the City of Grand Ledge, join with the City Council, City staff, and the residents of our community to recognize Kalmin Smith as a beloved member of our community, express our gratitude for his service and commitment to Grand Ledge, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and

Be it known to one and all, that I, the Mayor of the City of Grand Ledge, in honor of Kalmin's vision and dedication to a new City Hall, do hereby designate the City Hall Council Chambers as the "Dr. Kalmin D. Smith Council Chambers."

Given this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year 2018.

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Thomas J. Sowle, Jr., Mayor