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For Immediate Release

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Oak Park and the Michigan Downtown Association Celebrate Downtown Day

September 23, 2020, Oak Park, Michigan – The City of Oak Park is partnering with the Michigan Downtown Association (MDA) in celebration of “Downtown Day” on Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Understanding that now more than ever Michigan residents need to support downtowns and the businesses within them by shopping, dining, attending an event, or volunteering, the MDA contacted the Governor’s office and requested the designation. The organization received the official Proclamation signed by Governor Whitmer earlier this month.

“We have more than 700 licensed businesses in the City of Oak Park, and our commercial corridors are thriving with a variety of businesses,” commented Kimberly Marrone, Economic Development Director for the City of Oak Park. “The pandemic has been hard on local economies everywhere. This Saturday, we’re really counting on local shoppers to support our small businesses and restaurants.”

The MDA encourages community members to visit a downtown or commercial corridor on September 26th and enjoy its shops, restaurants, and recreational and cultural aspects.

“The MDA believes Downtown Day will bring positive attention and recognition to small businesses and downtown cores,” Dana Walker, director of the MDA, said. “There are many opportunities for Michigan residents to safely support downtowns like strolling sidewalks, having a picnic in a park, ordering carryout, or leaving a positive review for a retail store on social media,” she continued.

The MDA states a downtown is the commercial core of a community that serves as its social and economic center.

“Downtowns, and the small businesses located within, deserve to be celebrated, as they help distinguish a community, are the drivers of economic development, and help to offer a sense of place that contribute significantly to the quality of life of residents,” Walker said. “The small businesses located within a downtown create jobs, commerce, and investment,” she explained.

With the importance of a strong downtown in mind, and to help celebrate its 40th Anniversary, the MDA has created a ‘40 Ways in 40 Days to Love Downtown’ promotion that kicks off during Downtown Day.

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Each day after September 26th, the MDA will post on its social media outlets an activity one can do to offer support to a small business or show love for a downtown. Examples include having a hot beverage from a downtown coffee shop or bakery, visiting a downtown park, and posting a selfie in front of a favorite downtown store. In Oak Park, participants are encouraged to tag @CityofOakPark on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram when taking selfies in front of their favorite small businesses and commercial locations.

“The last six months have taken a toll, but downtowns are resilient and are adapting to current situations,” Walker said. “Our small businesses and downtowns need locals to support them in whatever way possible,” she continued.

The Michigan Downtown Association (MDA), founded in 1980, is a state-wide, nonprofit organization and a driving force in the interest and growth of downtowns and communities throughout Michigan. The MDA encourages the development, redevelopment, and continuing improvement of Michigan communities and downtowns. Its 183 members support economic development within the State of Michigan and include cities, Downtown Development Authorities, townships, villages, Principal Shopping Districts, chambers of commerce, individuals, and businesses.

For more information regarding Downtown Day and the Michigan Downtown Association, please contact Dana Walker, 248-838-9711, or visit www.michigandowntowns.com.

The [City of Oak Park](#) is situated on the southern-most border of Oakland County, Michigan, and serves as a suburban ambassador to Detroit. Incorporated as a city in 1945, today Oak Park’s population exceeds 30,000 and is home to more than 700 local businesses and corporate headquarters.

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