

Dear Amy Cell,

I am writing to express interest in serving as Ann Arbor's next City Administrator. Ann Arbor is a special place to me as I attended law school at the University of Michigan, and while only about 100 miles from where I grew up in Sandusky, it exposed me for the first time to a global perspective and has informed my life and career ever since. For me, as for so many others, Ann Arbor was the most formative community I have called home and it would be an honor to return as City Administrator.

After graduating from Michigan Law, I chose a non-traditional career path and pursued a career in local government and community revitalization. For 15 years, I have served under the leadership of elected officials and assisted them in unlocking the potential of the communities they led.

Since returning to my hometown of Sandusky as City Manager in 2014, we have formed new partnerships with Cedar Point that have been transformative for the community. The relationship between Sandusky and Cedar Point is similar in many ways to that of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan, and I believe my experience working successfully with Cedar Point would serve me well in Ann Arbor.

My work in both Cleveland and Sandusky involved serving communities that had been devastated by globalization and urban sprawl. In both communities, we gained national attention for promoting progressive policies and initiatives in unlikely places. In Ohio City, we collaborated with the local housing authority and a refugee resettlement nonprofit to build one of the largest urban farms in the country in the shadow of Downtown Cleveland.

In Sandusky, we swapped Columbus Day as a locally observed holiday with Election Day, which earned coverage from nearly every national media outlet because it was surprising that a small city in Ohio had made that change.

By contrast, Ann Arbor citizens expect their community to be at the forefront of innovative issues, as evidenced by current priorities including climate change, affordable housing, and more. It would be exciting to work alongside a talented staff in service of a City Council and Mayor with such ambitious goals.

Twice in my career, I have had an opportunity to serve communities approaching important milestones. In Ohio City, we leveraged the centennial of the West Side Market to position the neighborhood as a hub for local food. In Sandusky, we celebrated the impending 2018 bicentennial by creating a Bicentennial Vision Plan that helped attract over \$300 million in investment over a five-year period.

Ann Arbor will celebrate the bicentennial of its founding in 2024. That date provides an incredible opportunity for elected officials, supported by the city administrator and staff, as well as other stakeholders, to utilize that date as an impetus to generate consensus around community needs and to create important deadlines for established community priorities. It would be an honor to serve such an iconic community during this exciting time.

Sincerely,

Eric Wobser