



Office of the City Manager, Chief Administrative Officer

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November 21, 2024

Ottawa County
Board of Commissioners
1220 Filmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

Re: County Administrator

Chairperson Moss and Board of Commissioners,

I want to thank you for the distinct honor of being invited to interview for the position of County Administrator for the County of Ottawa. I was humbled to be informed this morning that I have been advanced in the process to the final stage.

This process has ignited a great moment of personal reflection for my wife and I. In this moment, we stepped back to take stock in what our family currently has in life, and our deepest hopes and desires for the future.

I have been a municipal executive for more than 17 years, almost 11 of those years were serving in my current position as City Manager for the City of Port Huron. These 17 years have brought moments I could not foresee and will not forget. They have shaped who I am as a person and my worldview.

My tenure in Port Huron has been marked by remarkable challenges and by a community working together to overcome those challenges.

During this struggle, one of which our shared future was to be shaped, an irrevocable bond has been forged between the residents of Port Huron and my heart. Our hopes and dreams for our families and our future is now and forever interwoven and forged together by time and love.

Here in Port Huron, we are home. This is where we want to raise our two little girls. No raise or promotion can change that fact. Furthermore, I believe that God has placed us here for such a time as this.

Considering this, it would be unfair to your organization and your residents to continue in the process to become your next County Administrator.

Ottawa is one of Michigan's premier counties. It is why it's one of the fastest growing counties in Michigan and why this search has yielded you such a deep pool of talent to choose from.



During this period of our lives I prayed that God would be a light unto our feet and give us straight paths. Today, I pray that same prayer for you and your organization.

Sincerely,

James R. Freed

City Manager

Chief Administrative Officer