

City Council

April 30, 2020

111 E Lawrence Ave.

Charlotte, MI 48813

To all Charlotte City Council Members:

We are writing you in reference to the following recommendation by the City Manager. The recycling center is proposed for closure at the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Our question is "WHY"???

The City Council states on page 43 of the budget proposal – The Recycling Fund is an enterprise fund used to account for the operations of the recycling drop-off center on Hall Street. The center provides an alternative to waste disposal for Charlotte area residents and businesses by coordinating acceptable recyclables with reliable markets. It provides educational opportunities through use of flyers, on-site instruction and demonstrations.

Until recently, the City was party to an intergovernmental agreement with four area townships organized as the Charlotte Area Recycling Authority (CARA). In 2016, three townships gave notice pursuant to the agreement that they were withdrawing. Since then, the operations of the recycling center have been conducted as a division of the City's Department of Public Works.

If the "three townships" that previously gave notice they were withdrawing still use the facility, why not bill them for the use, instead of closing it down.

FACT: CARA diverts more than 400 tons of materials from the landfill every year, including hard to recycle materials that other facilities do not accept for recycling, such as styrofoam, fluorescent lightbulbs and batteries.

Charlotte Area Recycling Center was first opened in 1995 for the purpose of providing a drop-off recycling center for the collection, processing, marketing and removal of recyclable items. **The Center is funded through donations, sale of recyclable materials and grants from Eaton County Resource Recovery.** Quoted from the Home Page of the Official City Government Website.

We are asking that you reconsider the closing of this facility. Hundreds of residents and businesses depend on it.

Thank you,

James and Linda Lord

P.O. Box 4

2474 E Clinton Trail

Charlotte, MI 48813

