

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & COMMERCE



ANNUAL BUDGET
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017



I am pleased to present the residents of Oak Park with a Financial Summary of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17. Each year I am given the honor of presenting City Council with a

recommended budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year; at the May 6, 2016 Council Meeting City Council approved this year's annual budget, and traditionally that is where this process ends. This year I decided to offer the residents a simpler and clearer option in which to view the City's budget. Some may find the Annual Budget document to be technical, complex, and anything but user-friendly. In this easy to read budget summary, residents can view the highlights of the next fiscal year's budget in a more engaging format.

I am happy to report that this year we have passed a three year balanced budget, and have set a fiscally stable course for our community. In this document we have highlighted some of the challenges the City is facing, the opportunities and cost saving initiatives we have identified, and also some interesting facts about our excellent city departments. I hope you enjoy our budget summary, and by the end, I hope you share my confidence for what the future holds for the City of Oak Park!

Standard & Poor's Rating Services revised the City of Oak Park's outlook from A+ stable to A+ positive, reflecting improvement in the City's local economic metrics, which will continue in the future and will boost the City's overall economic profile. The rating increase will assist the City in obtaining better interest rates in the future.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although the cost of rubbish collection (garbage removal) is increasing, the City will not be passing that fee increase to the residents this year. Instead, we will dip into the healthy solid waste fund balance we have created in order to cover the costs.

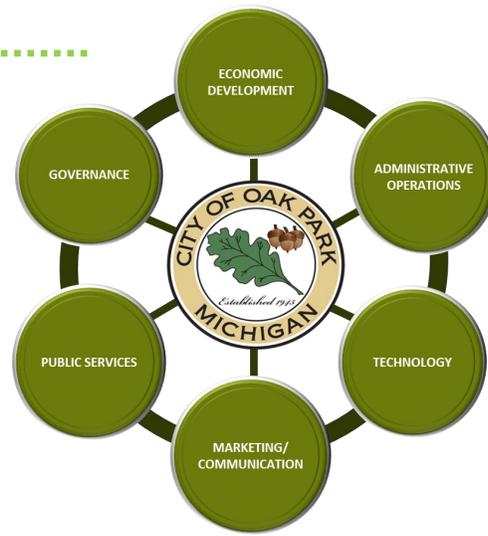


Have you noticed sunflowers popping up around town? Be on the lookout, as we expect the sunflowers we planted in various locations around the City to start sprouting within the month of June. As sunflowers represent both hope and happiness, we anticipate they will bring all these things plus a pop of color to the City of Oak Park.



CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2013 City Council adopted a Strategic Plan that consisted of six priority areas of focus, each with measurable objectives meant to guide the City through 2019. You'll see some of the objectives the City has been working towards scattered throughout this summary!

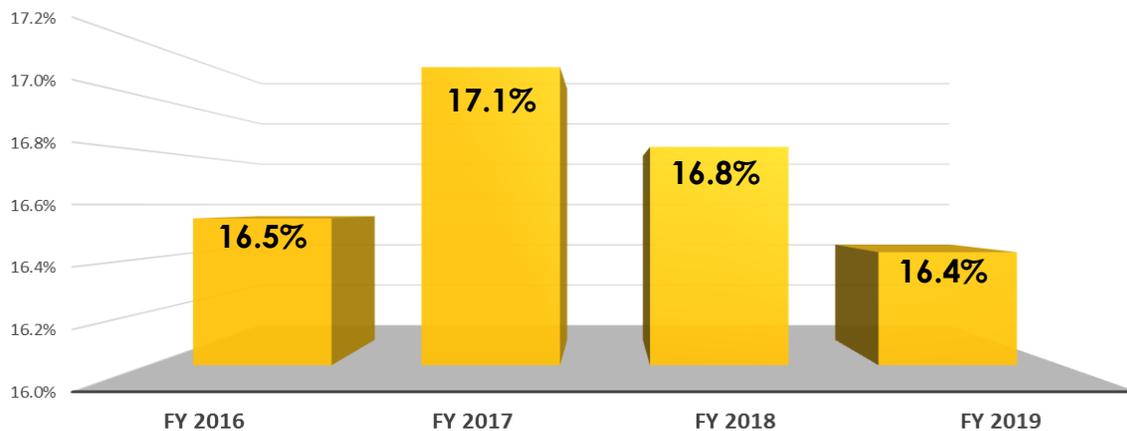


DID YOU KNOW?

City facilities have FREE wi-fi available! The network is :“City of Oak Park - Guest” and the network password is: oakparkquest. Please feel free to take advantage of the free wi-fi access when you're visiting City facilities!

SUSTAINABLE BUDGETING

Total Fund Balance



In order to protect the City from unforeseen costs or hardships it is a requirement that we keep a “rainy day” fund, or what is known as a “fund balance” equal to 8.3% of expenditures. To ensure the City is financially stable through 2019 we have budgeted for double this requirement for the next three years.

By refinancing both the City's 2003 and 2006 street bonds from a 4.5% rate to a 1.9% rate, and a 4.5% rate to a 2.5% rate, respectively, the City has saved taxpayers nearly \$1.2 million. The Fiscal Year 2016-17 millage rate will decrease by a total of .7154 mills, mostly due to the refinancing of the 2006 street bonds.

✓ MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY

This year we have laid out a three year balanced budget - setting a fiscally stable course for our community through 2019.

✓ ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS

The City is constantly looking for ways to increase revenue and cut costs in order to save taxpayer's money and increase the quality of life of our residents.



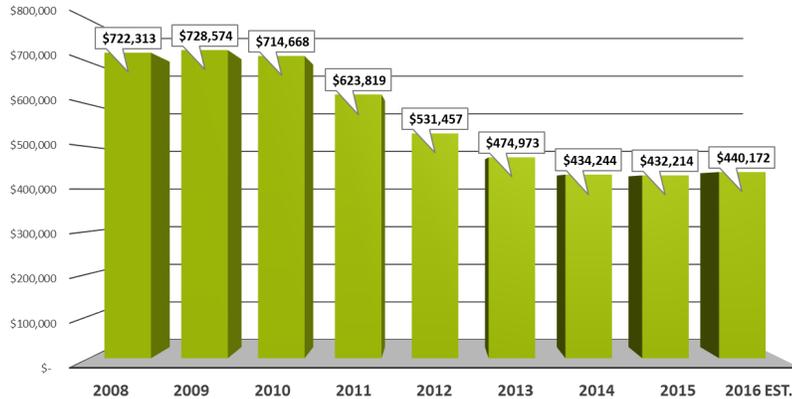
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Although we are doing our best to ensure financial stability for the City, we are still facing some tough challenges. Due to Headlee and Proposal A, the City is limited in the amount of property tax revenue it collects. Even as property values rise, the taxable value of a property is restricted to the rate of inflation or 5 %, whichever is less (this year inflation was .3 %).

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Nearly half the City's revenue comes in the form of property taxes, and that amount has decreased steadily since the Great Recession. (Total taxable value for the City decreased by 40% since 2008)

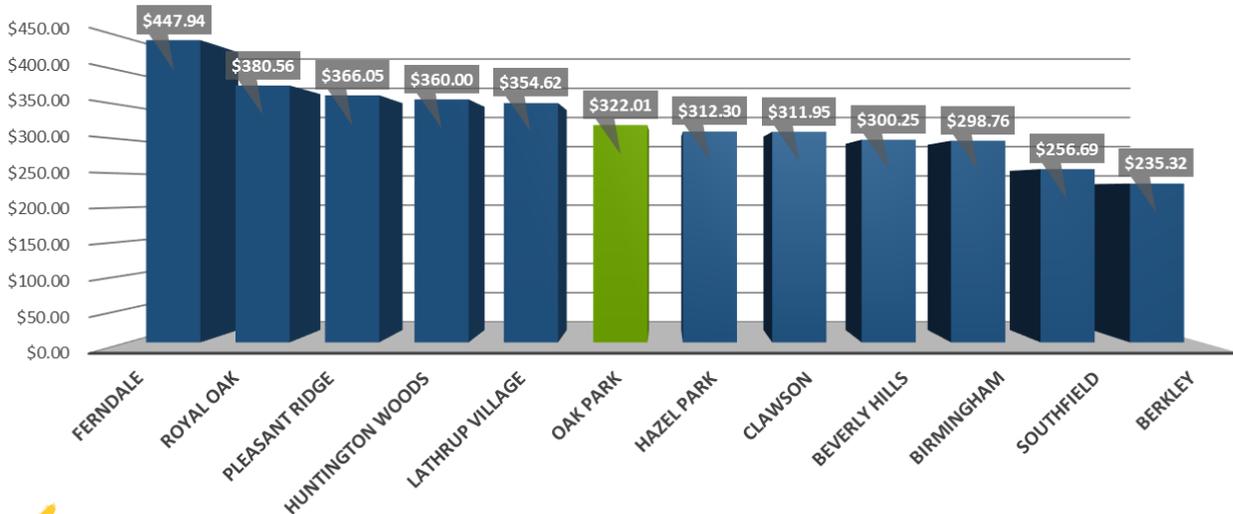
Revenue from One Mill



WATER & SEWER RATES

Due to the consistent increase in costs charged to the City by the Great Lakes Water Authority, combined with the efficient upkeep of our water and sewer infrastructure, the City must increase water rates for the next three years. In order to ensure that we are charging the correct rates, the City hired a consultant to conduct a water and sewer rate study. Although the results of that study recommended a 7% blended rate increase for the next four years, the City has decided to only pass on a 7%, 6 %, and 4.5% blended rate increase for Fiscal Years 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, respectively.

Comparison of SE Oakland County 2015 Water & Sewer rates:
Avg. Cost based on 3,000 cu.ft/quarter



MAINTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

The City makes maintaining infrastructure a priority, from roads to water and sewer lines. A healthy fund balance in the water and sewer fund is important since the water and sewer system is in constant need of updates and improvements.

DID YOU KNOW?

Oak Park's water rates are lower than many of our surrounding communities. We realize the cost of water can be burdensome on residents, and we do everything we can to keep costs low while still maintaining our infrastructure.



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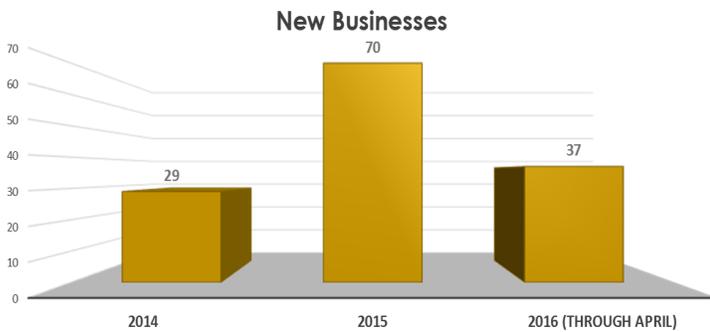
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our economic development initiatives are paying off, as we are seeing a consistent increase in the number of new businesses. From Planet Fitness on 10 mile and Coolidge, to a 300,000 sf FedEx distribution facility on the long-vacant Armory site, our long term economic development strategy has been successful in steadily growing our tax base. Arguably the most important tool we have in our economic toolbox is something we must thank the voters for; the passage of the Class C liquor license by voter approval has provided the City with a full array of incentives to attract new restaurants, grow the City's tax base, and raise property values.



DID YOU KNOW?

The City will be fully implementing a Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) along several major thoroughfares including Coolidge during FY 2016-17. While the CIA will not result in additional taxes, it will begin capturing tax increment financing revenues to be used for several programs including a Façade Improvement Program for businesses within the corridor to utilize.



In 2015 the number of new businesses more than doubled from 29 in 2014 to 70 in 2015. So far in 2016 we have already seen 37 new businesses, or 53% of the new businesses last year, in only the first four months of the year.

UNION JOINT'S 8 MK

We're already seeing the benefits in our Class C liquor licenses, as the well-known and extremely reputable restaurant group, Union Joints, announced that they will not only be opening a new and exciting restaurant, but will also be refurbishing the long-vacant historic WWJ building. This restaurant is sure to attract people from across the region to Oak Park.



INCREASE NEW BUSINESS PRESENCE IN OAK PARK



ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS

The City is continuously working to attract and retain businesses in the City in order to grow our tax base, beautify vacant or underutilized properties, and create a vibrant Oak Park for residents to enjoy.



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PUBLIC FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT

It is important that the City have a well thought out and calculated plan for reinvestment in our assets so that we may use the taxpayers money in the most efficient way possible. In an effort to do so, and also provide exceptional public facilities, infrastructure, and overall public services, this budget includes consistent and strategic reinvestments in our equipment and infrastructure.



PUBLIC FACILITIES

The three year budget includes several investments in our public facilities including a boiler replacement, back up generator, and roof repairs for the Community Center; and restroom and pavilion renovations in Shepherd Park.

EQUIPMENT

In addition to the expansion of the Public Safety fleet, through Fiscal Year 2019 the City will be adding or replacing several pieces of equipment including: 2 dump trucks, 3 pick up trucks, 4 code enforcement vehicles, and a leaf picker.

STREETS

9 MILE REDESIGN

Beginning with our Strategic Economic Development Plan, the City has been considering a redesign of 9 Mile for quite some time now. In late 2015 the City won a grant that supported the Congress for New Urbanism to visit and offer technical support in developing recommendations for 9 Mile Rd. Through their study, and a community workshop, we discovered that 9 Mile Rd. will better serve the residents if it is built for all modes of transportation, and offers more amenities for pedestrians and cyclists. The City has now contracted with a Planning and Engineering firm to help develop these visions into a reality. Included in this budget are funds to use as matching grants, as we seek out external grant money to fund this exciting project. We hope that in the next several years 9 Mile Rd. is established as a public space that encourages residents to visit, walk, bike, and play.

There are \$1.88 million in local road projects planned for Fiscal Year 2016-17 alone. Financing comes from the Major or Local Street funds, which are provided by the State to the City as our share of gas and weight taxes .

GRANZON ST.

\$1 million between Fiscal Year 2016-17 and 2017-18 is allocated for the much needed reconstruction of Granzon St. between Church and Coolidge. The work will begin in 2017.

A rendering of one of the sections of 9 Mile Rd. (right) shows a road diet (from 5 lanes to 3) with a bike lane and additional parking for businesses. The image below is a rendering of one of the suggested new nodes that will exist along the multi-use path, and will include amenities for both children and adults.



MAINTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE

The City places high priority on the tactical investment in our assets in an effort to maintain our infrastructure.

ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

The infrastructure investments the City is making in the next few years will improve public services and bring vitality to the City, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Oak Park prides itself on offering residents top notch services. Our departments, lead by our exceptional team, are dedicated to using tax dollars in the most efficient way possible to provide services and programs that meet City Council goals and improve the quality of life for our residents.



LIBRARY

The Library has seen many improvements in the last year. The computer lab has been overhauled with all new computers, wireless internet, and a remote printing and document station that allows faxing, scanning or sending documents to smartphones, tablets or cloud services. Even more improvements are scheduled next year, as the Library will see the addition of a Mobile Maker Space Cart!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Library's Teen Center opened this year! An area specifically designed for teens, it features comfortable seating, laptops and lap desks (for floor seating) so local teenagers have a place to spend time after school to do homework, use the internet, or just pass time in a safe environment. In Fiscal Year 2016-17 the Teen Center will see technology updates including tablets and gaming machines.

LIBRARY IN NUMBERS 2016



**Circulated
66,662 items**



**Served over
45,000 computer
and wireless users**



**100 Programs with
attendance of
4,218**



**Enjoyed 123,000
annual visits**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of the Community Engagement and Public Information Department is to be the connection between the City of Oak Park and its community members. In order to serve all residents, the department supports and promotes varying levels of communication, interaction, and participation with residents.

BECOME INFORMED

There are many opportunities for residents to obtain the information they need to connect with City programs, learn about City services, keep abreast of new developments, prepare for emergencies, and plan for City events.



CALENDAR

In December every year, the City disseminates a City Calendar to every resident and business within Oak Park. The calendar contains important events and additional information residents may find helpful.



eBLASTS

eBlasts allow the City to communicate to residents in real-time on pressing issues and emergent conditions. To sign up to receive eBlasts, send an email to ContactUs@oakparkmi.gov requesting to be added.



Newsletters

The Department of Community Engagement and Public Information produces a bi-monthly, printed newsletter that is distributed to every household and business in the City via U.S. Postal Service delivery. The newsletter contains valuable information about City initiatives, services and events. Newsletters can also be accessed on the City website.



Social Media

The City of Oak Park is active on several social media channels to provide community members with a way to receive up-to-the-minute news and announcements on our most pressing City developments. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Ustream, and YouTube - @CityofOakPark.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Oak Park has a new website! Our new site was built with the user in mind, to be informational, education, and interactive. It offers an easy to navigate, one stop shop for all the information residents need when they need it.



INCREASE RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

The City is dedicated to informing, educating, entertaining, encouraging, supporting, and engaging community members through varying levels of communication, interaction and participation.

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



TECHNICAL & PLANNING

The Technical & Planning Department is comprised of three divisions: Building Division, Code Enforcement, and Engineering. The Department focuses and prides itself on maintaining the character, appearance, and physical standards of Oak Park.

TECHNICAL & PLANNING IN NUMBERS 2016

1,651 Building Permits
\$326,000

407 Electrical Permits
\$50,000

286 Mechanical Permits
\$42,000

193 Plumbing Permits
\$25,000

CODE VIOLATIONS

Have you ever wondered if you or your neighbor is in violation of a City Ordinance? You can easily view all of the City's Ordinances via the City website (through the "Government" tab), where you can even search ordinances by keyword! You may also call our Technical and Planning Department at (248) 691-7401.

DID YOU KNOW?

Landlords must purchase an annual Landlord License and register all of their properties with the City. These properties must be inspected by Code Enforcement every two years or when an occupancy change has occurred. If you believe a landlord has not obtained the property license, call the Technical & Planning Department at (248) 681-7450.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is on the job for Oak Park residents every day, yet most are only aware of a small fraction of what they do to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Oak Park. The DPW has five division: streets, water supply, parks and forestry, motor pool, and facilities maintenance.

SNOW EMERGENCIES

Snow emergencies are called when more than four inches of snow falls, or other hazardous conditions necessitate it. The City makes every attempt it can to ensure residents are made aware of snow emergencies through multiple sources including: local TV, radio, eBlasts, City website, social media and a robo call notification. No parking is permitted on City streets during this time until City crews have cleared the snow from that area. Designated emergency parking areas are available during this time. A parking map, along with additional information regarding snow emergencies can be found on the City website (through the Public Works Department page) or you may call the department at (248) 691-7497.

LEAF COLLECTION

The City provides leaf pick up for all residents October through December. Collection schedules can be found on the City website and social media sites, and include a map and calendar designating when and where leaf pick up will take place. Leaf pick up generally occurs once a week on every street through October, and every two weeks through November and December. More information can be found on the City website.

ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS

The City's Department of Technical and Planning and Department of Public Works are working year round to enhance the quality of life for Oak Park residents by both preserving and enhancing the things that make Oak Pak beautiful.

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

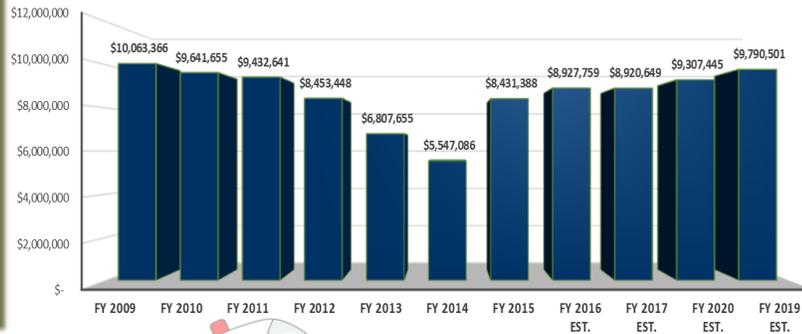
PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety is one of the most important services the City provides the residents of Oak Park. Unfortunately, when the City began to feel the effects of the Great Recession, cutbacks were made in the Public Safety Department, including officer layoffs. As the City's financial position has stabilized the City has been committed to bringing Public Safety funding back to where it was, and to bringing our staffing levels back to the appropriate number.



The Public Safety Department hosts a Citizen Academy, in which all Oak Park residents 18 years and older are qualified to apply. The Academy is a 4-week course that introduces residents to the day-to-day operations of the public safety department. Topics include patrol and traffic operations, defective bureau and investigations, police equipment, and more. If you'd like more information on the next academy contact Detective Koch at (248) 691-7514.

Public Safety Expenditures



PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTMENTS

The three year budget includes one new public safety officer each year through FY 2018-19, for a total of 3 new public safety officers. Additionally, it includes 2 new public safety marked SUVs and one unmarked vehicle for FY 2016-17, followed by one unmarked vehicle and one marked public safety SUV each of the following years through FY 2018-19.

DECREASE CRIME

The investments we are making in our Public Safety Department assists the City in carrying out City Council's objective of decreasing crime.

RECREATION

The Recreation Department offers something for Oak Park residents of all ages. From yoga and softball to putt-putt and swimming, there's a program or activity for everyone to enjoy! It is the department's mission to enrich the quality of life for our diverse community while establishing a high standard of excellence in our programs, activities, parks and services.

RECREATION EVENTS

The Recreation Department plans some of the City's largest events. Below is a sample of some of the most popular; for a full list and more information on events see the City website .

WINTERFEST

The annual Winterfest celebration is a day filled with slay rides, s'mores, and other fun-filled winter activities. It takes place each January at the Community Center.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

The Independence Day Parade is an honored tradition in the City. Preceded by the Mayor's 5K race, and followed by Fun Fest, hosted in Shepherd Park, the Parade begins this year at 10 am

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

A special night for girls and the favorite man in their life, the Daddy Daughter dance is a joyful Oak Park tradition, that takes place each February at the Community Center.

HALLOWEEN BOO BASH

Boo Bash serves as a safe haven to take the kids for Halloween fun and treats, where they are surrounded by community members, fun, and great activities. Join us on Monday, October 31, 2016 from 4 to 7 pm in the Community Center!

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Oak Park Recreation Department provides activities, programs, and classes to both residents and non-residents. There are two main registration periods: fall/winter and spring/summer, in which classes are usually held. To find out more about the City's programs you can call the department at (248) 691-7555 or you may register via the City website (located through the Recreation Program link on the Recreation page).

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OAK PARK CITY COUNCIL

Marian McClellan, Mayor
Carolyn Burns, Mayor Pro Tem
Kiesha Speech, Council Member
Solomon Radner, Council Member
Ken Rich, Council Member

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Erik Tungate, City Manager
Kevin Yee, Assistant City Manager

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The City of Oak Park's Fiscal Year 2016-17 Annual Budget can be found on oakparkmi.gov

