

PRESSRELEASE

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City Supports Local Manufacturers

Michigan City, IN (October 1, 2003) – Mayor Chuck Oberlie has issued an executive order that encourages the use of locally manufactured products in all construction work financed by the City of Michigan City.

Executive Order 1-03 states, “By specifying these products in the plan/specification (or naming the local product as the standard), the city demonstrates its commitment to these companies and their employees. In addition, the design architects and engineers may continue to specify these products in construction documents for other communities thereby creating additional business opportunities for our corporate taxpayers.”

Mayor Oberlie said, “Supporting our local manufacturers is appropriate for the City of Michigan City. We have many quality manufacturing companies in our community, and specifying their products in our construction plans is just one of the actions I promised to take as part of the business expansion and retention portion of my Economic Development plans for the City of Michigan City.”

Mayor Oberlie's plans for economic development include the following statement about business expansion and retention: “Perhaps the most important function of any local economic development program is a strong Business Retention and Expansion effort. 70-80% of new jobs created in a community come from the expansion of its existing businesses. Therefore, it is essential that our existing businesses be recognized and "taken care of" in order to retain them and help them to grow. The Mayor must take an active role with the MCEDC and the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce in implementing their retention and expansion programs. The program includes on-site visits to learn how the business is doing and to learn what the community can do to help them grow. The Mayor must attend these visits to demonstrate City's interest in their success. It is also important to recognize the many industrial/commercial businesses that make up the workforce base in the City. In that regard, the Mayor should partner with the MCEDC and the Chamber in promoting Business Appreciation Recognition events and a local Products Showcase event. Michigan City products should be incorporated into construction specifications for local buildings when ever possible.”

The City will specify, for example, concrete fasteners from ITW Ramset Red Head, building materials from Josam Distribution Company, plumbing products from Geberit Manufacturing, Inc., roofing materials from GAF Materials, boilers from Weil-McLain, and air compressors from Sullair Corporation.

“In order to assure compliance,” Mayor Oberlie said, “city department heads, boards and commissions are to provide my office with a copy of the compliance specifications prior to bidding a project.”

Executive Order 1-03 went into effect on September 25, 2003.