**VESTER DAVIS JR.**

**29 N LaVista Boulevard, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015**

**Cell: (616) 477-6360**

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Accomplished professional with a demonstrated ability to deliver efficient and effective results. Formally trained in managing non-profit and public agencies, Vester is highly skilled at working collaboratively with local, regional and state officials to evoke positive outcomes. Vester is a team player with strong management and communication skills. Vester is a candidate for credentialed status by the International City / County Management Association (ICMA). Below is an overview of the skill sets that I possess:

* *Project management*
* *Consensus building*
* *Organization and self direction*
* *Life-long learner*
* *Adaptive leadership shills with a lead by example and community engagement approach*
* *Creative and innovative problem solver.*
* *Grant management skills.*
* *Skilled at building partnerships*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**CITY MANAGER, 2020-PRESENT**

**City of Springfield,** Springfield, Michigan

As City Manager, I ensure all city services are delivered effectively, efficiently, and equitable. I work collaboratively with elected and appointed officials, local non-profit and for-profit agencies, and manages resources to fulfill the desires of the elected body.

Accomplishments**:**

* Facilitate the planning, organizing, coordinating, and administration of public services.
* Leading the implementation of an equitable spending plan of the city’s $540,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocation.
* Implement the city’s updated park plan, master plan, and corridor planning process.
* Guided the policy adoption process for regulating adult use marihuana establishments within city limits.
* Retained over $300,000 in home repair funds from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.
* Implemented an Employee Assistance Program and enhanced employee recognition programming.
* Leveraging the city’s annual county-wide park millage funds to renew, refresh, and reinvigorate park amenities.

**CITY MANAGER, 2018-2020**

**City of Stanton,** Stanton, Michigan

In this role I managed the day-to-day operations of all city services and resources to fulfill the wishes of the elected body.

Accomplishments**:**

* Manage several roles for the agency including human resources, finance, zoning and planning, and street administration.
* Revised and implemented a new personnel manual, updated the city website including the addition of revamped forms and community information.
* Obtained a $30,000 grant award from Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to rehabilitate homes and enhance local parks.
* Obtained a $300,000 grant award from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Veterans Memorial Park Development Project.
* Earned a Michigan State University Extension Citizen Planner Certificate for planning and zoning administration.
* Initiated a new approach to the city’s blight elimination program.

**ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER, 2014-2018**

**City of Grand Haven,** Grand Haven, Michigan

The Assistant to the City Manager is a member of the executive staff for this full-service city. As such, the Assistant to the City Manager supports the City Manager and other departments in the daily functions of all city services. In the manager’s absence, assumed all responsibilities of that office.

Accomplishments**:**

* Assigned the role of grant management specialist. To date, I have secured and managed more than $ 3.5 million in federal, state and local grant funds for infrastructure and recreation improvements.
* Provided property management for all city-owned properties (20) on lease or license agreements.
* Implemented an employee recognition program for all city employees.
* Led the City through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s Redevelopment Ready Communities Program®.
* Served as Community Development Manager and Zoning Administrator.
* Prepared meeting minutes, staff reports and made recommendations to various Boards and Commissions.

**EDUCATION**

**Master of Public Administration**, Grand Valley State University (GVSU), School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Management

* + Dean’s List recognition
	+ Served on the Young Alumni Council
	+ Annual GVSU Community Outreach Volunteer

**Bachelor of Science**, Grand Valley State University, School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Management

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

* International City/County Management Association (ICMA), 2012 – Present
* Michigan Municipal Executives (MME), 2014 – Present (current board member)
* Michigan Municipal League – Professional Development Committee, Committee Member, 2016-2022
* Michigan Municipal League – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, Committee Member, 2022-2023
* Stanton Rotary member, 2018-2020
* Michigan State University Extension Facilitative Leadership Training - 2023
* City of Battle Creek Airport Board, 2022 - present
* Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation, 2022 – present
* Calhoun County Materials Management Committee, 2024 – present
* Southcentral Michigan Planning Commission, 2024 - present