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The City of Lansing’s Controversial “Bidder’s Ordinance”

The City of Lansing is on the precipice of resolving a political dispute over the controversial “Bidder’s Ordinance.” In a nutshell, the ordinance would require private developers requesting government tax incentives to advertise the solicitation of bids and open the bidding process to the public. On February 27, 2017, the City Council will vote on this proposal.

Proponents of the ordinance believe it will create greater transparency in the bidding process where private developers are seeking government tax incentives as well as giving local workers a better opportunity of securing those bids. Opponents of the ordinance see it as unnecessary, government interference that will impact the private developer’s financing as well as their choice to do business in the City of Lansing.

Supporters of each faction are deeply entrenched in their beliefs. Only time will tell if the ordinance is approved or rejected. Regardless of the outcome, this debate, both locally and statewide, is likely far from over.

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