



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., City Administrator
Sara Higgins, Director of Operations

SUBJECT: Feature Presentation: Resiliency in Ann Arbor, Michigan – July 2022

DATE: August 22, 2022

Supplement: Feature Presentation Video: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/city-administrator/Pages/Feature-Presentations.aspx>

This memo is provided to accompany our Feature Presentation: Resiliency in Ann Arbor – July 2022. The videos include Ann Arbor stories from those in affordable housing, downtown businesses, and technology during the COVID-19 pandemic. You will hear from determined community members and leaders regarding their challenges and how we are successfully navigating towards building continued resiliency. Each of the individuals featured is a strong example of continued resiliency and strength in Ann Arbor.

Affordable Housing

Jennifer Hall, Executive Director **Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)**

Makia Slaughter, Property & Compliance Specialist (property manager) at West Arbor and South Maple, the property that **Antwanette**, resident and mom, is moving to in July. Antwanette is moving from a 3-bedroom at one of our properties to a 4-bedroom at another property at South Maple.

MaryAnn Johnson, Co-Director of the Wellness Program at Peace Neighborhood Center, our resident services provider at several of our properties, including the property Antwanette is moving from and the property that she is moving to.

Recording Location: Peace Neighborhood Center – Wellness Center, 1111 N. Maple
<https://peaceneighborhoodcenter.org/>

Ann Arbor Housing Commission web page:
<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/Housing/Pages/default.aspx>

Questions:

- Please share your story during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provide some examples of setbacks and how you ultimately successfully navigated through the many challenges.

Downtown Businesses

Phillis Engelbert, Owner of **Detroit Filling Station**, 300 Detroit Street, Downtown Ann Arbor. A vegan eatery.

The Staebler Family Oil Company opened a filling station at 300 Detroit Street in 1925. The original pillars and clay tile roof can still be seen inside and outside of the restaurant. By 1967 the building was converted to the Ann Arbor Fish Market. The front drive-through area was enclosed with white stucco, leaving the original brick columns exposed on the corners. A small addition was made along Detroit Street and the point of the intersection was extended as outdoor dining space. The Lunch Room expanded into this historical landmark and opened Detroit Street Filling Station August 2017.

Web page: <https://thelunchrooma2.com/detroit-street-filling-station-1>

Lauren Bloom and Matt Ritchey, Co-owners of **Bløm Meadworks**, 100 S. 4th Avenue, Downtown Ann Arbor, who makes what they like to call session meads and ciders that are dry and sparking and use Michigan ingredients. Many weekly events including board game sessions and culinary pop-ups. Recently celebrated their 4-year anniversary as an Ann Arbor business.

Web page: <https://www.drinkblom.com/>

Questions:

- Please give a thumbnail sketch of your downtown business & yourself and how long you have been in the City of Ann Arbor.
- How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact your business?
- Was there a point where you weren't sure that you would survive?
- What survival strategies were effective for you?
- Did you have a support network?
- Are you being impacted now by the supply chain issues?
- Please share your optimistic outlook for going forward.

Technology

SkySpecs

Phil Santer, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff at **Ann Arbor SPARK**, 330 E. Liberty Street.

Danny Ellis, Co-Founder and CEO of **SkySpecs Global HQ**, 312 South Ashley Street. Technology to simplify the management of renewable energy assets. Wind turbine blade inspections and blade asset management. Been in Ann Arbor since 2012.

Ann Arbor SPARK web page: <https://annarborusa.org/>

SkySpecs web page: (<https://skyspecs.com/>).

Workit Health

Phil Santer, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff at **Ann Arbor SPARK**

Lisa McLaughlin, Co-Founder & Co-CEO, of **Workit Health**, Headquarters: 3300 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 280

Digital Addiction Care/telemedicine since 2014. Tries to stay hyperlocal while being national.

18 states, 300 employees; 60 local.

Workit Health web page: <https://www.workithealth.com/locations/michigan/>

Questions:

- Please share a little background on the company and yourselves.
- How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your business?
- What were some of the strategies you used to survive?
- Did you have any type of support network that helped you navigate what you were going through?
- Are you currently being affected by supply chain issues or cost of materials?
- Please share your optimistic outlook for your business going forward.