



CITY OF  
**Sterling  
Heights**  
InnovatingLiving

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**City Council**

<i>Mayor</i>	Michael C. Taylor
<i>Mayor Pro Tem</i>	Barbara A. Ziarko
<i>Councilwoman</i>	Deanna Koski
<i>Councilman</i>	Gary Lusk
<i>Councilwoman</i>	Maria G. Schmidt
<i>Councilman</i>	Nate Shannon
<i>Councilwoman</i>	Liz Sierawski

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**City Manager** Mark D. Vanderpool

July 6, 2017

Brigadier General John D. Slocum  
29553 George Avenue  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, MI 48045

Dear General Slocum:

As the City Council members of the City of Sterling Heights, we are pleased to write this letter of support to bring the new F-35 Lightning II to Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

Sterling Heights is located in Macomb County and has a population of 133,000 and is home to major defense contractors including BAE Systems Land and Armaments along with General Dynamics Land Systems. Sterling Heights is also home to the State of Michigan Defense Center. The defense community is an integral part of the City and the entire County.

Our community understands and appreciates the true impact that Selfridge has on our region, our state and our nation. For 100 years, the communities surrounding Selfridge have supported the base. In fact, in 1950 the Mount Clemens Military-Community Relations Committee coordinated local citizen efforts to support the men and women the base. This committee became the nation's first active and successful military relations committee. Air Force officials took note, and Mount Clemens became a model for other military towns to follow.

In turn, Selfridge has been a staunch community partner as well as a strategic epicenter for mission readiness at home and abroad. Home to all five branches of the armed forces, we recognize the unique and important asset that we share. Nearly 3,000 full-time civilian and military personnel and 3,000 members of the Air and Army National Guard and the Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces stand ready to defend us.

On behalf of the residents of Sterling Heights, we fully support the continued evolution of base capabilities. Our community stands ready to support any element necessary to beddown the F-35 in Macomb County.

We look forward to sharing good news about the anticipated announcement from the U.S. Air Force with you very soon. If there is anything we can do to provide direct support for this effort, please feel free to contact us.

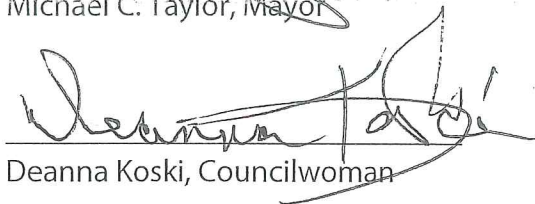
Sincerely,



Michael C. Taylor, Mayor



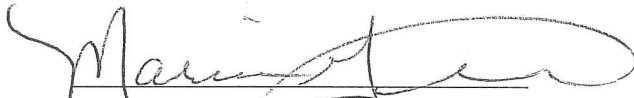
Barbara A. Ziarko, Mayor Pro-Tem



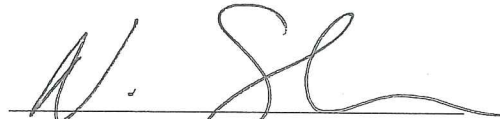
Deanna Koski, Councilwoman



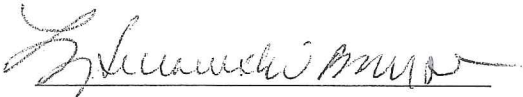
Gary Lusk, Councilman



Maria Schmidt, Councilwoman



Nate Shannon, Councilman



Liz Sierawski, Councilwoman

CC: General Slocum  
U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow  
U.S. Senator Gary Peters  
Congressman Sander Levin  
Congressman Paul Mitchell  
Governor Rick Snyder  
Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel  
John Paul Rea, Director, Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development