



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

Item Number: 4

DATE: April 15, 2025

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Fiscal Committee

LIAISON: Scott Saindon, Acting Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Doug Matthews, Assistant City Manager
Executive Office

SUBJECT: **Resolution Approving a Contract Amendment to the Existing Contract with City of Rest to Increase Funding in the Amount of \$55,000 for Support of Community-Based Violence Reduction in the Third Ward**

As part of the 2022 Participatory Budgeting initiative, Third Ward residents supported the implementation of community-based violence reduction initiatives aimed at addressing the specific needs of the ward. Through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, on July 16, 2024, City of Rest was awarded a contract under the Participatory Budgeting (PB) project to execute the GRACE criminal justice diversion program. City of Rest's GRACE program has been successful in meeting the scope of work in the original contract with positive results.

City of Rest, in collaboration with the Kent County Prosecutor's Office, Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD), and the Kent County Sheriff's Department, continues to make progress in addressing violence reduction in the community, engaging community members, facilitating critical dialogues, and implementing programs designed to reduce violence in the City of Grand Rapids.

The additional \$55,000 of funds will be allocated from already appropriated Participatory Budget funds for the purpose of Community-based Violence Prevention Initiatives in the Third Ward. The additional funds will allow for City of Rest's GRACE program to expand the reach and impact of the work they are currently conducting, further enhancing their ability to provide effective community-driven violence reduction solutions.

Work on this project has already begun and will continue through December 2026.

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends the adoption of the following resolution
Approving a Contract Amendment to the Existing Contract with City of Rest to Increase
Funding in the Amount of \$55,000 to Expand the City of Rest's GRACE Program
Initiatives Towards Community-Based Violence Reduction in the Third Ward.

WHEREAS:

1. Through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, City of Rest was awarded a contract for the GRACE program under the 2022 Participatory Budgeting (PB) project initiatives to support violence reduction efforts in the Third Ward; and
2. City of Rest's GRACE program work has led to successful engagement with community members, facilitation of critical dialogues, and implementation of programs designed to reduce violence in the City of Grand Rapids; and
3. The primary objectives of the GRACE program include:
 - Provide a structured intervention program for youth offenders to address the root of their criminal behavior.
 - Reduce recidivism rates among youth by providing the necessary support and resources.
 - Facilitate the reintegration of youth offenders into society through skill-building, education and mentorship.
 - Offer a viable alternative to sentencing youth offenders as adults, promoting restorative justice principles.
 - Reduce crime and violence across the community committed by youth and young adult offenders; and
4. The work on this project has already begun and will continue through December 2026, ensuring the sustained impact of this important program; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. That a contract amendment to the current contract with City of Rest to increase funding in the amount of \$55,000 is hereby authorized; and
2. That the project work will continue upon contract execution through December 2026; and
3. That the total amount of the contract amendment, funded by the appropriated Participatory Budget funds, will be for an amount not to exceed \$55,000; and
4. That such contract amendment is to be in a form to be approved by the City Attorney, and
5. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City upon approval as to form by the City Attorney.