



Item Number: 14

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: August 13, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Fiscal Committee

LIAISON: Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Connie M. Bohatch, Senior Managing Director of Community Services
Community Development

SUBJECT: **Resolution authorizing an agreement with Mel Trotter Ministries for \$400,000 over two years for the personal belongings storage program**

Attached is a resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Mel Trotter Ministries for continued operation of the personal belongings storage program for unhoused residents. The agreement is for \$200,000 per year, for a total amount not to exceed \$400,000. The period of performance is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026. Funding for the agreement is from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

This program, operated at 47 Williams Street, SW, continues to be in high demand. The facility has 265 bins for storage, including 28 added recently. The program has served 641 people during the current program year, which continues through September 30, 2024. Information on program participants is summarized below.

- 90% male, 9% female
- 49% Black/African American, 39% white, 9% Hispanic
- 42% 35-54 years old; 33% 55+ years old
- 83% sheltered at Mel Trotter
- 15% self-reported a physical disability
- 22% received income from employment, SSI, or SSDI

According to street outreach workers and the City's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), the program continues to:

- Increase ease and likelihood of seeking shelter and obtaining employment.
- Reduce basic needs requests for clothes, shoes, and blankets.
- Reduce the volume of items carried around or abandoned.
- Reduce calls for lost, found, or abandoned property.
- Provide secure storage for valuable belongings, including forms of identification.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City entered into various partnerships to support needs of homeless persons, families, and other vulnerable populations. These efforts included creating the HOT, expanding winter shelter, supporting geographically targeted housing outreach, and other projects. The City and Mel Trotter Ministries piloted the program for unhoused residents to store personal belongings in November 2021. The program has been used by more than 1,000 people since its inception.

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends adoption of the following resolution authorizing an agreement with Mel Trotter Ministries for the personal belongings storage program.

RESOLVED:

1. That an agreement between the City and Mel Trotter Ministries for the personal belongings storage program in an amount not to exceed Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) is hereby approved; and
2. That the agreement period shall be from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2026; and
3. That the Mayor is authorized to execute said agreement, related documents, and necessary modifications and extensions of time in a form approved by the City Attorney.

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW