

4. Communication received from Scott Atchison regarding the budget for the Downtown Ambassador Program



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** March 25, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** City Commission Meeting

**LIAISON:** N/A

**FROM:** Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** Communication received from Scott Atchison regarding the budget for the Downtown Ambassador Program



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** March 25, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** City Commission Meeting  
**LIAISON:** N/A

**FROM:** Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** Communication received from Scott Atchison regarding the budget for the Downtown Ambassador Program



Scott Atchison  
PO Box 1235  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501  
616-293-9056  
[NativeGR@aol.com](mailto:NativeGR@aol.com)

Page 1 of 1

**Note to City Clerk:**  
Please place this 1  
page communication  
in the next agenda  
package.

03/16/2025

City of Grand Rapids  
Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager & Staff  
300 Monroe Ave. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

For 03/25/2025 Agenda

RE: Question(s): How much money is being spent for the Downtown Ambassadors between city of Grand Rapids and the created entities: DDA – DID – DGRI – NMTIFA – City?

City of Grand Rapids Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager & Staff,

Note:

Rebecca Krantz, from the Downtown Ambassadors, did give a presentation of the works of the Downtown Ambassadors. Then Melvin Eldrige gave a "budget presentation."

From the DID alone, **the DID is allocating \$834,633.00** for the next fiscal budget for the Ambassador Program. Feel to fact check me and let me know you findings.

### Question(s):

How much is the DDA paying for the Ambassador Program in addition to the DID?

How much is the DGRI paying for the Ambassador Program in addition to the DID/DDA?

Who else is paying into the Ambassador Program? (City of Grand Rapids/NMTIFA)

How much total for a fiscal year is going to "Block by Block" from the city of Grand Rapids' created entities (DDA/DID/DGRI/NMTIFA)? Years: 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024

What do you know about the "Block by Block" company?

#### Downtown Ambassador Funding:

DDA	
DID	\$834,633.00
DGRI	
City	
Total	

City of Grand Rapids (City)  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Downtown Improvement District (DID)  
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI)  
North Monroe Tax Increment Finance Authority (NMTIFA)



Scott Atchison  
PO Box 1235  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501  
616-293-9056  
[NativeGR@aol.com](mailto:NativeGR@aol.com)

Page 1 of 1

**Note to City Clerk:**  
Please place this 1  
page communication  
in the next agenda  
package.

03/16/2025

City of Grand Rapids  
Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager & Staff  
300 Monroe Ave. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

For 03/25/2025 Agenda

RE: Question(s): How much money is being spent for the Downtown Ambassadors between city of Grand Rapids and the created entities: DDA – DID – DGRI – NMTIFA – City?

City of Grand Rapids Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager & Staff,

Note:

Rebecca Krantz, from the Downtown Ambassadors, did give a presentation of the works of the Downtown Ambassadors. Then Melvin Eldrige gave a "budget presentation."

From the DID alone, **the DID is allocating \$834,633.00** for the next fiscal budget for the Ambassador Program. Feel to fact check me and let me know you findings.

### Question(s):

How much is the DDA paying for the Ambassador Program in addition to the DID?

How much is the DGRI paying for the Ambassador Program in addition to the DID/DDA?

Who else is paying into the Ambassador Program? (City of Grand Rapids/NMTIFA)

How much total for a fiscal year is going to "Block by Block" from the city of Grand Rapids' created entities (DDA/DID/DGRI/NMTIFA)? Years: 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024

What do you know about the "Block by Block" company?

#### Downtown Ambassador Funding:

DDA	
DID	\$834,633.00
DGRI	
City	
Total	

City of Grand Rapids (City)  
Downtown Development Authority (DDA)  
Downtown Improvement District (DID)  
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI)  
North Monroe Tax Increment Finance Authority (NMTIFA)