

April 23, 2024, FY2025 Budget Introduction Questions from City Commissioners – Remaining Questions and Answers

1. RB – Request for an update on the Leadership Academy.

Prior to 2023, the Office of Equity and Engagement offered Neighborhood Associations the opportunity to participate in the Neighborhood Leadership Academy sponsored by OEE and facilitated by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center. This program was sponsored for a number of years, but over time participation by Neighborhood Associations declined significantly.

In 2023, OEE pivoted the program and partnered with Dwelling Place’s - Building Leaders Building Communities (BLBC) program to provide a similar service to Grand Rapidians. BLBC is a resident leadership experience designed by NeighborWorks America. Beginning with a journey of collective self-discovery that seeks to connect gifts, talents and passions, the BLBC experience is built to help all leaders, advocates and concerned citizens as they grow the greater good. Together participants and facilitators walk through topics on relational conversations, leadership styles, community assets and how to identify and work towards addressing community issues. BLBC is open to all people regardless of their leadership or community organizing experience. The true power BLBC is in the role that neighborhood residents and partners play in co-creating and co-facilitating the experience.

Since the City transitioned to BLBC, OEE has received positive feedback regarding this program and its impact on Grand Rapidians. OEE intends to continue to use BLBC as an alternative to the former iteration of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy.

2. BG - Kids Speak conference attendees showed interest in more after-school activities to counteract detrimental activities. Are there opportunities to talk to youth about what they believe is missing compared to what is being done and have additional funding for them?

We will continue to be intentional with youth engagement in the future prior to budget formulation. Our Community’s Children (OCC) facilitates the Mayor’s Youth Council and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Network to identify needs and support services.

- a) **The Mayor’s Youth Council (MYC) consists of teens in grades 9th – 12th from all three Wards who experience first-hand how municipal government operates and impacts their lives. The curriculum seeks to develop a keen understanding of the purpose and functions of city government and the decision-making process for public policy. Students learn important life-long skills in leadership, team building, political strategy, public speaking, negotiation, debate, and community organizing. Activities include monthly conversations with the mayor about policy issues that come before the City Commission, as well as conversations with other elected and appointed officials and city staff about voting and elections, community organizing, youth voice and choice, and current events. The MYC also hosts the annual**

KidSpeak forum, facilitates a joint meeting with the GRPS Superintendent's Scholar Council, meets with their state legislators in Lansing, and participates in community service projects. Afterschool programming needs are discussed as part of these activities.

- b) The Expanded Learning Opportunities Network (ELO) is a collaborative that ensures children in West Michigan have access to afterschool and out-of-school time programming promoting their success. Membership includes nonprofit youth service providers, higher education, local government, businesses, and the philanthropic community. The ELO Network work includes supporting program funding and advocacy, quality standards for care in service provision, and professional development for youth services staff. There are several youth service providers and programs in the community supported by a variety of funding sources.**

April 30, 2024, FY2025 Budget Workshop Questions

Public Safety

Police Department

1. RB – CPTED: Doing proactive enforcement of CPTED ordinance? KT: Described enforcement process. Falls under Planning; specific to certain types of businesses; does proactive enforcement, but this was less of a priority during COVID. Can provide more information about the level of enforcement activity. RB: Interested in what we are doing to be proactive. Would appreciate an update.

Planning Director Turkelson provided information on the CPTED process during the work session and will prepare a CPTED update, including information about proactive enforcement activities, to present to the Public Safety Committee.

2. RB: Camp O'Malley summer camps planned?

Boys and Girls Club will be running day camps starting June 10th and running through summer.

61st District Court

1. BG: Noted House bill sponsored by Rep. Grant to protect housing rights for formerly incarcerated people and hopes City can be supportive. (Karyn F.)

HB 4948 (Grant) and HB 4960 (Snyder) would prohibit landlords and employers, respectively, from requesting or requiring disclosure of information on previously expunged convictions. Specifically, the bills would amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Landlord and Tenant Relationships Act to prohibit the disclosure of information related to expunged convictions by employers and landlords. The bills aim

to strengthen the legal protections for those who have worked hard to erase their past mistakes and are seeking a fresh start.

These bills would align with the principles established in the 2024 legislative priority agenda. The Legislative Team has not yet discussed them specifically, but staff will include this topic on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.