City Hall, Second Floor
425 E. State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
www.rockfordil.gov

Planning and Development Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday, August 10, 2026
5:30 PM

The following represents, in general, the chronological order of proceedings at the City Council/Committee Meetings: Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Public Speaking and City Council/Committee Agendas.

Meeting will be live streamed on Channel 17 and via this link: https://rockfordil.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INFORMATION ONLY

1. GoRockford Quarterly Report for Q3 and Q4. **26-00898**

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Approval of the proposed Funding Agreement with Living Well Center of Northern Illinois in the amount of $100,000 annually for a period of three years not to exceed a total amount of $300,000 to support the establishment of a Senior Center located at 1111 South Alpine Road. The funding source is Casino Funds. **26-00968**

2. Approval of the proposed amendment to the Funding Agreement with the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (GoRockford) extending the term of the agreement from an expiration of 2028 to an expiration of 2034 and the continued lease of 102 N Main Street. This is an extension of six (6) years from the existing agreement and lease. **26-00969**

IV. RESOLUTIONS

1. Authorization for acceptance of the Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in the amount of $613,551.00 to implement the Beverly Park Floodplain Connection. The City would match $333,384.00 of local CIP Funds. **26-00970**

2. Authorization for acceptance to utilize an allotment of Region 1 Planning Commission's (R1PC) Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the amount of $4,349,410.00 for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2028 to implement the Harrison Avenue Reconstruction Project. The City will match $4M and will continue to seek STBG and other federal grants to make up this gap by FFY28. The funding source is the Motor Fuel Tax. **26-00971**

3. Authorization for acceptance to utilize an allotment of Region 1 Planning Commission's (R1PC) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the amount of $1,271,066.00 for the Federal Fiscal Year 2028 to implement the Highcrest Multi-Use Path project. This grant is in addition to the $3,000,000.00 grant received from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for the same project. The City's match of $254,213.20 will come from Motor Fuel Tax Funds. **26-00973**

V. ADJOURNMENT

THE CITY OF ROCKFORD INTENDS TO COMPLY WITH THE INTENT AND SPIRIT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. IF A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, PERSONAL P.A. SYSTEM, OR OTHER SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NEEDED, PLEASE CALL THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AT (779) 348-7391 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE, SO WE CAN BE PREPARED TO ASSIST YOU.

GOROCKFORD
QUARTERLY REPORT

Photo Credit: Kevin Haas, Rock River Current

FY26, Q3
January - March, 2026

GoRockford
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

The mission of GoRockford is to drive quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development.

gorockford.com

Destination Marketing Accreditation Program — Accredited Organization

Illinois Destinations Association — State Certified Bureau 2026

GoRockford Mission Statement

GoRockford drives quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development.

PRIORITY RESULTS

CREATE ECONOMIC WEALTH
The Rockford region experiences growth in tourism's leading indicators.

ENHANCE TOURISM PRODUCT
The Rockford region offers unique and marketable experiences and venues that meet or exceed visitor expectations and enhance quality of life for citizens.

ENGAGE CONSTITUENTS ON BEHALF OF TOURISM
GoRockford tourism marketing and destination development efforts have broad support among key stakeholders.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

As we close the third quarter of FY26, Rockford's momentum is being reflected in both national visibility and measurable economic impact across our work.

This quarter, Rockford earned significant national media attention, generating more than **1 billion impressions** and **$9.8 million in earned media value** through placements in *The Atlantic*, *The Economist,* and *Morning Brew's The Playbook.* These stories reinforce Rockford's position as one of the Midwest's most affordable and attractive markets, elevating our profile among both visitors and potential residents.

Rockford Restaurant Week delivered record-breaking results, with **82 participating restaurants**, more than **3.5 million social media views**, and strong increases in sales, with many businesses reporting gains exceeding a **25%**. This program continues to be a key driver of economic activity for our local hospitality industry.

Our sales team delivered strong results this quarter, generating **4,790 future hotel room nights** and **$2.9 million in economic impact**, while hosting major events such as the **AHL All-Star Classic** and **Rockin' Rockford** volleyball tournament. In addition, securing the **IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals** through **2028** positions Rockford for continued long-term growth in sports tourism.

Destination development efforts including a new multi-year partnership supporting Stroll on State, new sculptures, and a new festival coming up that will be announced in May.

Through Made for Rockford, our team expanded national outreach by attending the **TravMedia Summit**, conducting more than **50 one-on-one meetings** with journalists to pitch Rockford's story and build future media opportunities.

Together, these efforts reflect a focused strategy to grow visitation, strengthen our economy, and elevate Rockford's visibility on a national stage.

Be well,

John Groh
GoRockford President/CEO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GoROCKFORD NEWS

ROCKFORD RESTAURANT WEEK BREAKS RECORDS AND DRIVES ECONOMIC IMPACT

Franchesco's Ristorante accepts the Legacy Award to celebrate their community impact and 40th Anniversary at the post Rockford Restaurant Week news conference and awards ceremony in March 2026.

Rockford Restaurant Week continues to prove itself as one of GoRockford's most impactful economic and marketing initiatives, delivering measurable growth for the region's hospitality industry. In 2026, a record **82 restaurants participated** (up significantly from 65 in 2025). The event not only drives awareness of the region's culinary scene but also directly supports local businesses, with many participating restaurants reporting their most successful Rockford Restaurant Week to date and sales increases exceeding **25%**, with some seeing gains of **50% or more** over previous years they participated.

The 2026 marketing campaign generated over **3.5 million social media views** (more than triple the previous year) and **87,724 website views** to the landing page. Advertising efforts included billboards and digital advertising targeted to Chicago suburbs, and Milwaukee area, which generated **1.5 million impressions**, while local and regional media coverage reached **473 mentions**.

Nearly **2,000 votes** were cast per category for the **"Best Of" awards** (see winners on sidebar).

ROCKFORD RESTAURANT WEEK

- Best Experience
  27 Aluna
- Best Main Course
  Harvey Wallbangers
- Best Dessert
  Hidden Creek Estates
- Best Deal
  Cheezy's Grilled Cheeses
- Best Cocktail or Brew
  Crave Kitchen & Cocktails
- Legacy Award
  Franchesco's Ristorante

Winners were honored at a news conference in March at **Franchesco's Ristorante.** More than **45,000 referrals** from GoRockford website went directly to restaurant partners.

Overall, Rockford Restaurant Week is more than a promotional event: It is a strategic economic driver that supports small businesses, amplifies regional visibility, and positions Rockford as an emerging culinary destination. With continued year-over-year growth in participation, engagement, and measurable business impact, the program is poised to reach new heights every year.

ROCKFORD EARNS NATIONAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Rockford earned strong national media attention this quarter, with coverage in prominent outlets that positioned the region as a standout Midwest success story. **The Economist's** *"The Midwest's Remarkable Turnaround"* highlighted cities like Rockford as examples of economic revitalization and renewed relevance. **The Atlantic's** *"How the Midwest Became the Place to Move"* reinforced Rockford's appeal for those seeking value, space, and quality of life, while **Morning Brew's The Playbook** *"Meet the Midwest Most Affordable Market"* named Rockford the Midwest's most affordable market, emphasizing its accessibility for new residents and investors. Together, these placements provide strong third party validation and elevate Rockford into a national conversation about where people are choosing to relocate. This surge in media coverage aligns with strong housing market performance, as Rockford has ranked among the Top 10 nationally in **Realtor.com's Hottest Housing Markets** report for seven of the past 12 months. This consistent recognition signals sustained demand and growing visibility among prospective residents, driven by the region's affordability, lower cost of living, and quality of life. The combination of earned media and housing momentum strengthens GoRockford's positioning efforts and creates a compelling narrative that supports talent attraction, economic development, and long term destination growth.

FINAL ROUND OF RESTAURANT GRANT

GoRockford announced a final round of the Restaurant Relief Grant bringing an additional **$427,631** in state funding awarded to area restaurants in the fifth and final round of its **Restaurant Relief Grant Program**, helping businesses continue to recover from elevated unemployment insurance taxes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

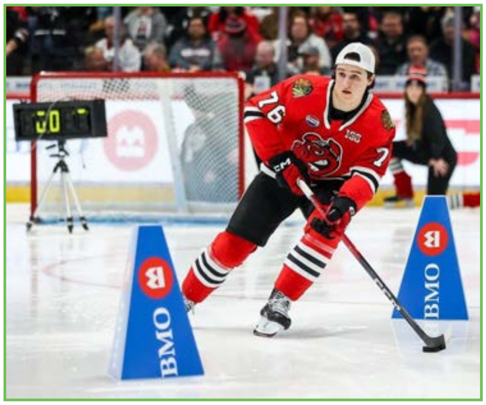
STATELY AWARD

GoRockford was honored to receive the **2026 Stately Hospitality and Tourism Award** in March at the inaugural Stateline Honors Stately Gala hosted by the Stateline Chamber of Commerce. This recognition reflects the ongoing work of the team to promote Rockford and highlight what makes the region a great place to visit and live.

GoRockford receives the 2026 Stately Hospitality and Tourism Award from the Stateline Chamber of Commerce on March 3, 2026.

SALES EFFORTS & RESULTS

SPORTS AND MEETING SALES HIGHLIGHTS



Rockford IceHogs forward Nick Lardis shows his skills during the AHL All Star Skills Competition in February 2026.

ROCKFORD HOSTS FIRST-EVER AHL ALL-STAR CLASSIC IN ILLINOIS

The quarter kicked off with **BMO Center** hosting the **2026 AHL All-Star Classic** on **February 10-11**, a premier two-day hockey showcase featuring top American Hockey League (AHL) players competing in skills competitions and an exciting 3-on-3 tournament. The event drew players and fans from across the United States and Canada, filling local hotels and restaurants and generating an estimated **$772,000** in economic impact for the region. GoRockford enhanced the visitor experience by staffing welcome tables at host hotels and providing resources and way finding assistance throughout the weekend.

IHSA GIRLS STATE BOWLING FINALS RETURNS

The **2026 IHSA (Illinois High School Association) Girls State Bowling Finals** once again demonstrated Rockford's strength as a premier host for long-standing championship events. With a history of over 30 years in the market, the event continues to bring athletes, families, and fans from across Illinois, generating an estimated **$172,216** in economic impact.

ROCKIN' ROCKFORD SERVES

On **March 7-8**, Rockford welcomed **Rockin' Rockford**, the largest AAU youth volleyball tournament in the region. This marquee event brought hundreds of teams and more than **10,000 athletes and families** and **341 teams** to the area for a weekend of high-level club competition. The tournament generated over **3,000 hotel room nights** and a full weekend of activity at **Sports Factory** and **Mercyhealth Sportscore Two**. The large scale tournament brought an estimated economic impact of **$911,347.**

ROCK RIVER BLAZE DEBUTS

Rock River Blaze hosted its inaugural home school basketball tournament at **Sports Factory**, **March 13-14**, attracting teams from across the Midwest. GoRockford helped elevate the event atmosphere by providing a s'mores station, which was a standout hit among participants. The tournament resulted in 1,200 room nights and an estimated economic impact of **$1.3 million**.

BIG WIN THIS QUARTER

Rockford secured a major sports tourism win this quarter with the selection to host the **IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals** from **2026–2028**. This prestigious, multi-year championship will bring the state's top teams and their fans to Rockford each November, generating nearly **$493,128** in total economic impact over three years.

BOOKING HIGHLIGHTS

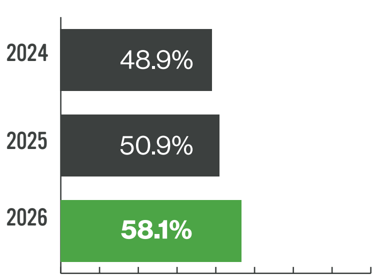
- **ISHA Boys State Soccer Finals**
  November 2026, 2027 & 2028
  1,150 Total Room nights
  Estimated Economic Impact $493,128
- **Phantom Regiment Show of Shows**
  July 3, 2026
  2,000 Room nights
  Estimated Economic Impact $396,066
- **USACFC National Championships**
  May 2, 2026
  600 room nights
  Estimated Economic Impact $333,42
- **Collegiate Club Bowling National Championship 2026**
  March 27, 2026
  400 room nights
  Estimated Economic Impact $216,807
- **PWBA National Tour**
  April 29, 2026
  240 Room nights
  Estimated Economic Impact $175,116

Future Hotel Room Nights Booked During the Quarter: 4,790 with an economic impact of $2.9 Million
Number of Bookings: 16

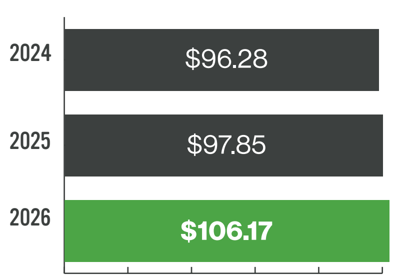
AHL Team Mascots pose during the AHL All Star Classic in February 2026.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HOTEL STATISTICS January - March, 2026

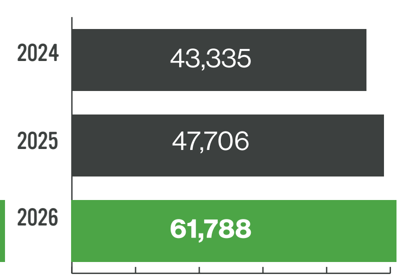
Year to Date Hotel Occupancy



Year to Date Average Room Rate



Year to Date Room Demand
(rooms sold)

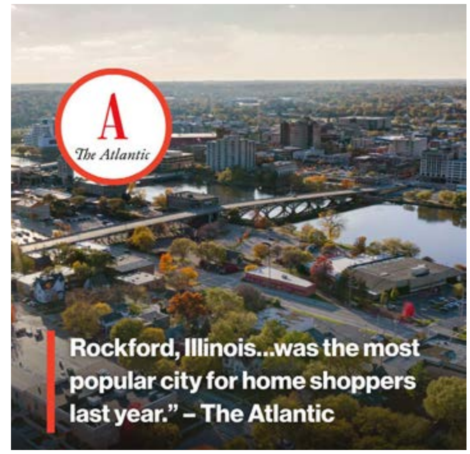


Year to Date Revenue
(in millions)

MARKETING

MEDIA MENTIONS & PLACEMENTS

GoRockford garners media mentions and placements to draw visitors to the Rockford region. Collaborating with regional and national media outlets, our team diligently seeks and shares captivating stories and compelling content centered experiences in Rockford, visiting the region and destination development.



The Atlantic features Rockford as a place to move for its affordable housing and proximity to major markets.

NATIONAL MEDIA MENTIONS

The Atlantic: ***"How the Midwest Became the Place to Move"*** (03/23/2026) 11,310,000 impressions and $418,470 Earned Media

The Economist ***"The Midwest's remarkable turnaround"*** (02/21/2026) 8,240,000 Impressions and $304,880 Earned Media

Realtor.com: ***"These Metros Are Giving Out-of-State Movers a Leg Up Onto the Property Ladder—and Bucking the Affordability Crisis"*** (01/29/2026) 38,300,000 Impressions and $1,417,000 Earned Media

Morning Brew - The Playbook: ***"Meet the Midwest's hottest affordable market"*** (03/25/2026) 350,000 impressions and $12,950 Earned Media

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK
5.2 Million Views
62,657 Followers

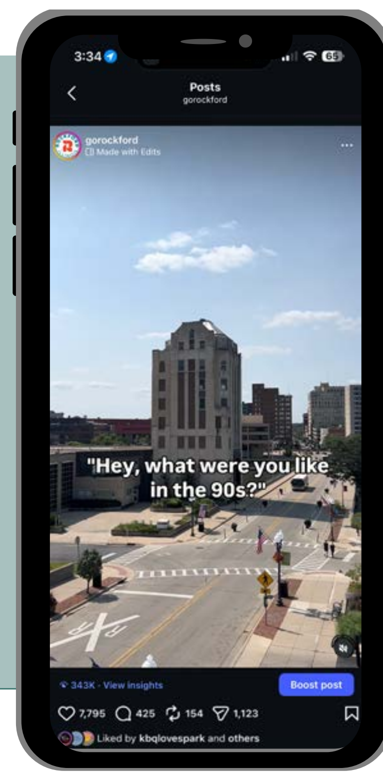
INSTAGRAM
1 Million Views
26,479 Followers

LINKEDIN
3,053 Followers

TikTok
457,000 Views
13,907 Followers

Top Facebook Post

February 4, 2026 | Impressions 305,517



EARNED MEDIA (January - March, 2026)

GoRockford works to attract visitors by directly pitching stories to media. Pitches are focused on economic development, tourism marketing and travel public relations.

$9,830,000
Ad equivalency

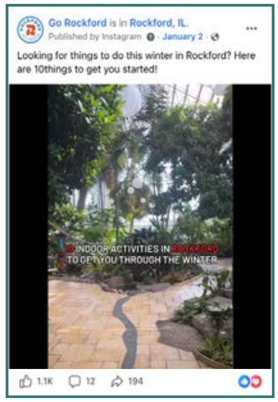
1,057,000,000
Total impressions

1,680
Number of mentions

MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTIONS

Each month of the quarter had a different focus, leading to impressive engagement.



JANUARY

January's promotions supported leading up to Rockford Restaurant Week and winter fun in Rockford, including cozy drink and attraction itineraries and where to enjoy snowy weather activities. January had an astounding **2.8 Million** views with **25K** in interactions for the month. This is an increase of **225%** from January 2025 at **859K views**.

FEBRUARY

February had several promotional focuses as most of Rockford Restaurant Week was in February this year. GoRockford also celebrated Black History Month by profiling local murals by black artists and local businesses. This month also celebrated local shopping with guides for Valentine's Day. February's efforts had **1.2 million views** with **25K interactions**. This year is up significantly from 2025, which had **369K views**.

MARCH

Spring Break travel and family itineraries was a large focus of March's efforts. Promotions also began for spring travel including where to see spring blooms. One of the more popular posts was about small towns in Winnebago County to visit. March's social media views were around **1.3 million** with **25K interactions**, up 46% from 2025.

ROCKFORD RESTAURANT WEEK MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Digital Ads and Billboards

GoRockford's three-month campaign with NextStar Media ended with Rockford Restaurant Week promotion. The media mix included out of home billboards in Milwaukee and Chicago suburbs, and Meta advertising. To date, the campaign has generated the following impressions: **1.2 million social media** and **254,095 out-of-home impressions.** There was also added-value coverage that included local media segments and advertising on news websites. Added value media generated an additional 1.2 million impressions.

Influencers

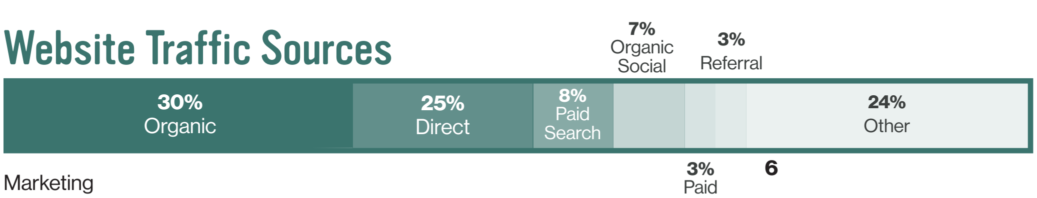
To promote Rockford Restaurant Week, GoRockford reached out to local and regional influencers to promote the local dining scene in Rockford. Five were selected and they posted about their experience. For an expanded winter and Rockford Restaurant Week itinerary, we worked with **Mapping Our Tracks** (43K followers) and they visited Nicholas Conservatory, Alpine Hills Adventure Park for tubing, DC Estate Winery and stayed at Embassy Suites. We also worked with **Illinois Foodies** (251K followers) on two posts to promote the event. Overall the posts from influencers had a total of over **81,000 views**.

Media Coverage

Local coverage on television, radio and in print was up to 473 media mentions in 2026 (up from 224 in 2025). GoRockford secured in studio segments for 2025 Rockford Restaurant Week winners.

MOST SEARCHED TERMS	MOST SEARCHED EVENTS	MOST SEARCHED LISTINGS
Rockford Restaurant Week	**Restaurant Week**	**Anderson Japanese Gardens**
Events in Rockford	**45th Annual Rockford Home Show**	**Oak and Embers Bistro**
Restaurants in Rockford, IL	**Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition**	**Hidden Creek Estates**

Website Traffic Sources



144,972 total website visitors

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT

GOROCKFORD SUPPORTS AMERICA 250 CELEBRATIONS

Revolutionary War reenactors attend the America 250 news conference at Midway Village Museum

GoRockford played a key role in supporting the **City of Rockford** and **Winnebago County** in planning and promoting the **America 250** kickoff press conference in February, helping to position the region as an active participant in this once in a lifetime national milestone.

The announcement introduced a coordinated, community wide approach to celebrating the **250th anniversary of the United States**, with GoRockford leading efforts to amplify the initiative through a dedicated campaign and regional storytelling platform. A new America 250 landing page, **RockfordRegion250.com** was launched to showcase events, share Rockford's history, and invite organizations to participate.

Program announcements highlighted a full year of experiences designed to honor the nation's past while engaging residents and visitors. Plans include community wide service initiatives, educational programming, arts and cultural events, and signature celebrations such as a citywide cleanup, youth concerts, immersive historical experiences, and Fourth of July festivities. Additional initiatives such as an art and essay competition for students and funding opportunities for local organizations will further expand participation. Together, these efforts position America 250 as both a commemorative moment and a strategic opportunity to tell Rockford's story, strengthen community pride, and drive visitation throughout 2026.

GOROCKFORD ANNOUNCES UMB PARTNERSHIP

GoRockford strengthened its partnership with **UMB Bank** through a new three-year presenting sponsorship of Stroll on State, ensuring the continued success and growth of one of Rockford's largest and most beloved community events. This commitment secures the future of the festival through **2026, 2027,** and **2028** and reflects a shared investment in community connection, economic impact, and creating meaningful downtown experiences.

The GoRockford team poses with UMB bank to celebrate the new three-year presenting sponsorship.

As a signature event funded entirely through sponsors, partners, and volunteers, Stroll on State continues to serve as a major driver of visitation and local engagement. The partnership with UMB Bank provides stability and opportunity for growth, allowing GoRockford to enhance the event experience while maintaining its strong community foundation.

Even in challenging winter conditions, the 2025 event demonstrated its resilience and value, drawing an estimated 15,000 attendees downtown. The continued support from UMB Bank reinforces the long term sustainability of Stroll on State and its role in bringing the community together while supporting local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

2026 A LOOK AHEAD

Looking ahead to 2026, GoRockford will continue to prioritize destination development initiatives that enhance the overall visitor experience while strengthening community pride. These efforts are designed to create a more vibrant, welcoming, and memorable environment across the region.

FOREST CITY BEAUTIFUL

Forest City Beautiful will have newly installed signage with updated GoRockford branding. Spring and summer planting will kick off in May with over 130 downtown planters filled with beautiful flowers.

CRE8IV SCULPTURES

New sculptures will be introduced in 2026 as part of CRE8IV's biannual sculpture program. The program has brought over 30 art pieces to neighborhoods and streets throughout Rockford. These installations not only enhance public areas, but also provide photo-worthy spots for residents and visitors to enjoy.

NEW FESTIVAL

GoRockford is preparing to announce a new event in August to enhance the summer experience in Rockford and add to the offerings for America 250 Rockford to bring new visitors to Rockford for this dynamic festival.

STROLL ON STATE 2026

Planning is already underway for Stroll on State 2026 to expand the festival into Davis Park (currently undergoing a major renovations). The expanded footprint will create an even bigger event for year 14.

Overall, these destination development initiatives reflect a forward thinking strategy that prioritizes placemaking, community engagement, and long term growth. By investing in beautification, public art, and signature events, GoRockford is positioning the region to remain competitive, attract new visitors, and continue building a strong sense of place for years to come.

MADE FOR ROCKFORD

GOROCKFORD ATTENDS TRAVMEDIA SUMMIT

NBC Nightly News films the "Letters to Santa" segment with Mrs. Claus.

GoRockford represented the Rockford region at the **TravMedia Summit**, held in conjunction with **IMM North America**, a leading forum that connects travel and tourism public relations professionals with editors and writers to exchange ideas, discuss industry trends, and build media relationships. This event provided a valuable platform to elevate Rockford's visibility among top tier media and position the region within broader travel conversations.

GoRockford President/CEO John Groh and Whitney Martin, Program Director of Made For Rockford, conducted more than 50 one on one meetings with journalists from leading outlets, sharing story ideas and highlighting the region's momentum. Conversations focused on the stories behind Rockford's experiences, the people who bring them to life, and the unique reasons travelers should consider the destination, helping to build meaningful connections and generate future media opportunities.

ROCKFORD PROMISE GRADUATES

Members of the GoTeam meet iwth Rockford Promise graduates and speak on the benefits of living and working in Rockford.

Members of the Made for Rockford Go-Team met with Rockford Promise graduates, highlighting the benefits of living and working in the Rockford area. These conversations provided scholars with direct connections to local ambassadors and resources to support their transition into the community. The effort also helped strengthen retention by reinforcing a sense of belonging and opportunity in Rockford.

Made for Rockford provided dozens of community tours for job applicants, offering a firsthand look at the area as a place to live and work. These tours supported recruitment efforts by helping candidates better understand the community and envision themselves building a life in Rockford.

MADE FOR ROCKFORD TOURS

Made for Rockford provided dozens of community tours for job applicants, offering a first-hand look at the area as a place to live and work. These tours support recruitment efforts by helping candidates better understand the community and envision themselves building a life in Rockford.

Journalists and travel writers meet with prospective destinations at the TravMedia Summit in January 2026.

A giveaway item features a QR code to go to GoRockford's media coverage page for journalists to learn more about Rockford's key media highlights.

GoROCKFORD BOARD & STAFF

GoRockford Board of Directors

Geno Iafrate (Chair)
Hard Rock Rockford

Tiana McCall (Vice Chair)

Mick Gronewold (Treasurer)
Fehr Graham Engineering & Environmental

Dana Martin (Secretary)
Rosecrance Behavioral Health

Carol Schuster
University of Illinois College of Medicine - Rockford

Jennifer Furst
Furst Staffing

Shelton Kay
Rockford Regional Health Council

Richard Shuga
Painters District Council No. 30 Local 607

Todd Cagnoni
City of Rockford

Gretchen Gilmore
Rockford Area Venues & Entertainment Authority (R.A.V.E.)

Angela Larson
Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce

Chintan Thakkar
Decorum Management Group

Mark Henderson
Village of Rockton

Bobbie Holzwarth
HolmstromKennedy

Ricardo Montoya-Picazo
Office of State Representative Dave Vella

Patrick Thompson
Winnebago County

Duncan Geddes
City of Loves Park

Sonya Hoppes
City of South Beloit

Jay Sandine
Rockford Park District

Kirk Weitzel
Rock Hospitality

Ald. Kevin Frost
City of Rockford

GoRockford Foundation Board of Directors

Carol Schuster (Foundation Chair)
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Geno Iafrate (Vice Chair)
Hard Rock Rockford

Marco Lenis (Foundation Treasurer)
Vocational Rehabilitation Management

Gina Caruana (Foundation Secretary)
Foresight Financial Group

David Anderson
Anderson Japanese Gardens

Jennifer Furst
Furst Staffing

Jeff Marrs
Morgan Stanley

Leslie West
State Farm

Rebecca Francis
Ignite Change Solutions LLC

Theresa Kegley
Movement Fitness

Jim Pirages
AGHL Law

Alexis Wright-Conniff
Woodward

GoRockford Staff

John Groh
President, CEO

Kristen Paul
Executive Vice President

Lindsay Arellano
Vice President of Sales & Service

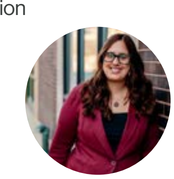
Joanne Nold
Vice President of Finance & Adminstration

Amanda August
Social Media and Communications Specialist

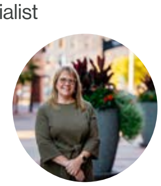
Chenaire Barmore
Communications Manager

Miranda Brook
Customer Experience Coordinator

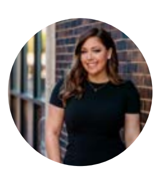
Kara Davis
Senior Sales Manager



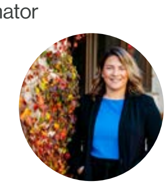
Elizabeth Falls
Marketing Manager



Julie Huber
Destination Development Operations Manager



Whitney Martin
Made for Rockford Program Director



Emily Plumb
Sales & Servicing Manager

Leah Ticknor
Office Manager & Executive Assistant

GoRockford Board of Directors
January 28, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GoRockford Annex

Board Members Present: Todd Cagnoni, Kevin Frost, John Groh, Mick Gronewold, Carol Schuster, Bobbie Holzwarth, Shelton Kay, Dana Martin, Gretchen Gilmore, Jennifer Furst, Angela Larsen, Richard Shuga, Patrick Thompson, Kirk Weitzel, Chintan Thakkar (via Zoom)

Board Members Absent: Geno Iafrate, Tiana McCall, Ricardo Monoya-Picazo, Mark Henderson, Sonya Hoppes, Jay Sandine, Duncan Geddes

Staff Present: Kristen Paul, Leah Ticknor

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Treasurer Mick Gronewold.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the December 17, 2025 meeting minutes.

Internal Monitoring Reports
After discussion, it was moved, seconded, to accept the Internal Monitoring Reports, including the CEO interpretations provided by John Groh, for the following reports. The motion was then amended and approved to defer the Reports on 1.0 and 1.1 to March. Motion carried.

Reports reviewed:
- 1.3 Communicate with Constituents
- 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
- 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities
- 2.8 Communication & Support to the Board

Governance Process
1.0 Global Ends Policy Revision
In 2025, Geno Iafrate appointed a working group to review and suggest revisions to Policy 1.0 Global Ends. The committee met in November and worked together to develop revised policy language. The task force recommends adoption of the revisions as submitted in the board packet. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and approved to adopt the revised 1.0 Global Ends policy.

Board Development Committee
The Board Development Committee will meet in February. Board members are encouraged to submit nomination recommendations to Geno Iafrate.

Conflict of Interest Forms
Board members are requested to complete and return the annual Conflict of Interest form to Leah Ticknor.

2026 Audit & Budget Committee
Mick Gronewold recommended the following members to the 2026 Audit & Budget Committee:
Mick Gronewold, Todd Cagnoni, Dana Martin, Darrell Snorek, Kyle Keith, Geno Iafrate, and Carol Schuster.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the committee slate as presented.

CEO Report
America250
Board members were invited to a press conference on February 6 at Midway Village. The GoRockford Foundation will serve as the fiscal agent. The Mayor and organizing committee are nearing their $250,000 fundraising goal.

Tourism Improvement District (TID)
Progress continues, with two meetings held with hotel partners. Ongoing coordination with Tiffany Gallagher at Civitas is advancing the process.

Stroll Event Update
A news conference was held announcing the continued partnership with UMB. Attendance reached approximately 15,000 despite weather challenges.

Partner Updates
Gretchen Gilmore invited the Board to the Rinkside Block Party in advance of the AHL All-Star Classic: February 10–11

Kevin Frost expressed appreciation for the positive momentum and community efforts in Rockford.

Dana Martin announced Rosecrance is expanding access to care with two new intensive outpatient programs in Chicago. She also invited Board members to the *In Bloom* event benefiting Rockford Art Museum.

Angela Larsen shared updates from the Chamber, including two new hires:
- Everett Butzine, VP of Business Expansion & Attraction
- Mike Lacny, Director of Sales & Service

Todd Cagnoni shared that the City has retained Hunden Partners to conduct a hotel market needs analysis to better understand future lodging needs.

Patrick Thompson announced the appointment of Judge Brandon Maher and noted ongoing courthouse renovations, including updates to five courtrooms.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m. by Treasurer Mick Gronewold.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Martin

Dana Martin, Board Secretary,
lt

GoRockford Board of Directors
March 25, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GoRockford Annex

Board Present: Todd Cagnoni, John Groh, Tiana McCall, Bobbie Holzwarth, Shelton Kay, Dana Martin, Geno Iafrate, Patrick Thompson, Kirk Weitzel, Angela Larson, Duncan Geddes, Jennifer Furst, Mark Henderson, Chintan Thakkar

Board Absent: Sonya Hoppes, Mick Gronewold, Kevin Frost, Richard Schuga, Carol Schuster, Gretchen Gilmore, Ricardo Montoya-Picazo, Jay Sandine

Staff Present: Kristen Paul, Joanne Nold, Whitney Martin, Leah Ticknor

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m. by Chair Geno Iafrate.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:
It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the January 28, 2026, meeting minutes.

Internal Monitoring Reports:
After discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Internal Monitoring Reports, including John Groh's CEO interpretations, for monitoring on:

- 1.0 Global Ends (deferred from January)
- 1.1 Create Economic Wealth (deferred from October 2025)
- 2.2 Treatment of Staff

Governance Process:
The Board Development Committee solicits nominations from the board.

CEO Update:

- **IHSA Boys State Soccer Finals** will take place in Rockford at Guilford High School for the next three years, 2026-2028.

- **Ironman 70.3** planning is underway. Eric Atnop, our race director, will be in town March 27-28, kicking off several planning meetings. The event is approximately 80 percent sold, which is great for the 2nd year. John asked the board to get involved in volunteering for the event.

- **Women's World Cup and Baseball For All:** (July 19–26) will bring a multi-day international girls' and women's baseball event to Rockford, featuring teams from around the world and positioning the community as a premier destination for women's sports.

- **American 250:** More than $250,000 has been raised to support events across Winnebago County from now through the end of August. Grant applications will close at the end of the month to allow for the timely reinvestment of funds back into the community. RPS 205 and private schools are promoting a "250" Art and Essay Contest. A volunteer opportunity tied to the initiative will take place on April 22 as part of the Earth Day Clean-Up.

- **Made for Rockford:** A New Resident Mixer is scheduled at the Downtown Rockford Library, with over 130 RSVPs to date. Invitations were targeted to individuals who have recently relocated to the area. Whitney Martin encouraged board members to invite newcomers in their networks. In partnership with the Greater Rockford Chamber, MFR is developing an improved job board tool to highlight open positions and internships for individuals and families considering a move to the region. Angela Larson noted that 70% of interns remain with their employer long-term. Whitney also shared that two journalists will be visiting Rockford to help promote the community.

- **Forest City Beautiful:** A spring fundraising appeal letter requesting donations will be mailed soon. Five sculptures will be added this year.

- **Tourism Improvement District (TID) Update:** Tiffany Gallagher from Civitas will be in Rockford on April 7–8 to meet with the Steering Committee, hotel partners, city officials, and staff. John attended meetings in Chicago last week, where support for establishing a TID, the first in Illinois, was unanimous. Peoria is actively advancing its TID effort and has secured the required hotel support. The Quad Cities region is engaged in discussions but is not expected to move forward until a unified district can be established in Iowa and Illinois.

- **Restaurant Grant:** 34 grant awards were issued in February to local restaurants totaling over $410k. Follow-up with restaurants to cash their award checks is still being done so that final grant reports can be filed.

- **LTCB Recertification**: Our annual recertification application has been filed with the Illinois Office of Tourism for eligibility in the FY27 LTCB grant program, including external letters from municipalities, internal control questionnaires, annual GATA registrations, and Greater Freeport CVB board authorization.

- **FY26 Financial Status:** After 8 months, the bureau is showing a $154k loss, which is $73k behind budget. A large share of the variance is due to city hotel taxes, which are $50k behind budget, in part due to one larger hotel's delinquent filing status.

Partner Updates

Pat Thompson – The county is working on summer street repair projects and looking forward to partnering on TID meetings.

Angela Larson – A new employee will be starting at the chamber in May, relocating from Washington, DC. The Austan Goolsbee (Chicago Federal Reserve Chair) event is coming up as part of their outreach program, providing another positive opportunity to highlight Rockford.

Mark Henderson – Rockton is actively planning IRONMAN-related events during and after the race.

Shelton Key – Eliminate Racism 815 is hosting a community policing session on March 25–26 at the Nordlof Center. Former Madison Police Chief David Couper will serve as the guest speaker.

Duncan Geddes – The Parks Chamber is bringing back the Annual Chamber Awards on April 21 at Hard Rock, with Geno as the guest speaker.

Todd Cagnoni – Davis Park landscaping is scheduled for completion in early summer, while buildings are expected to be completed in fall 2026. A hotel market evaluation study is underway to assess demand for potential additional hotel development in the city.

Geno Iafrate – On Wednesday, April 1, at 5 p.m., Hard Rock will celebrate Cheap Trick Day. The event will feature a documentary that has not been widely viewed, along with a dinner and Q&A with Rick and his family. Geno invited board members to attend.

Adjournment: At 8:24 a.m. Chair Geno Iafrate adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at Hard Rock.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Martin

Dana Martin, Board Secretary
lt

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO
RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Ends Policies
Annual Monitoring on Policy 1.0 – Global Ends Statement

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Executive Limitations Policy 1.0, Global Ends Statement, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

Signed,

John Groh
President/CEO

January 19, 2026

POLICY 1.0 – GLOBAL ENDS STATEMENT

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION: "GoRockford exists to drive quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (no substantive change) I interpret this statement to mean the basic, fundamental mission of GoRockford is to utilize its funding, human resources, and all other available strengths and assets to improve the quality of life of area citizens, and that we do this by ensuring the continued growth of the visitor industry in the Rockford Region, defined as Winnebago County.

I interpret the inclusion of both marketing and destination development as the board's directive to pursue a two-pronged strategy. This strategy should focus attention and resources on marketing/promoting and selling our region's existing products while always keeping an eye toward the future and advocating for new development projects, priorities, and enhancements that will keep our region appealing to citizens (quality of life) and visitors.

Further, I believe that in restating its Global Ends Statement (first approved in April 2014 and reaffirmed in 2020), GoRockford's board desires that we have a "citizens first" mentality. Said another way, our approach is guided by the underlying thought that "what is good for and appealing to a resident will likely be attractive and compelling to a visitor."

GoRockford's board and staff maintain Policy 1.0 as our primary goal and "bottom line", which guides the allocation of resources, defines strategy, and directs implementation. Further, the board provides GoRockford with three directives for achieving Policy 1.0 and delineates those priorities in Policy 1.1 – Create Economic Wealth, Policy 1.2 – Enhance the Tourism Product, and Policy 1.3 – Engage Constituents on Behalf of Tourism, which we use in developing its strategy.

I believe these three priorities comprehensively define the impacts GoRockford can create for the Rockford Region, given available resources, and that when achieved, they collectively represent achievement of our mission.

REPORT: Monitoring reports presented on Policy 1.1 (January 28, 2026), Policy 1.2 (April 23, 2025), and Policy 1.3 (January 28, 2026), provide details about how effectively GoRockford is achieving its goals in each of these areas. All reports noted achievement.

As I have reported achievement in reports on 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 within the past year, I am reporting achievement of your Global Ends Statement, Policy 1.0.

To: Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Ends Policies, Annual Monitoring on Policy 1.3

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Ends Policies Policy 1.3 - "Engage Constituents on Behalf of Tourism: GoRockford tourism marketing and destination development efforts have broad support among key stakeholders" in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy.

Signed,

John Groh, President/ CEO

January 19, 2026
Date

POLICY 1.3 – ENGAGE CONSTITUENTS ON BEHALF OF TOURISM: GoRockford tourism marketing and destination development efforts have broad support among key stakeholders.

1. The role of tourism is valued by residents of Winnebago County
2. Tourism initiatives and GoRockford are supported by government leaders and public policy
3. Business and community leaders invest time, energy and money in tourism initiatives
4. There is appropriate exposure of plans and activities in local and regional media

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION: "GoRockford tourism marketing and destination development efforts have broad support among key stakeholders."

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(no changes since last report)* At the broadest level, I interpret this to mean that GoRockford's success is reliant on demonstrable broad-based support for its work and role in the community.

Provisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 comprehensively identify the key segments of stakeholders (residents, government leaders, business and community leaders, and media) that cumulatively encompass "broad" support. Each of these is more fully interpreted and reported on below.

Of note, while not explicit in provision 3, I include industry partners (e.g., owners, managers and key staff of hotels, restaurants, sites, attractions, events and those businesses that are suppliers to the industry) in the broad category of "business and community leaders."

Further, to ensure such support, I interpret this to mean GoRockford must have in place regular practices and programs that maintain a proactive, diversified effort to encourage dialogue with all the individuals and entities that comprise our stakeholders. To monitor perceptions and ensure support, the communication process should provide outlets and opportunities for GoRockford to hear and understand the needs, expectations and awareness of our stakeholders.

The objective is to ensure GoRockford has strong relationships with stakeholders and other community opinion leaders, and those individuals understand the bureau's mission, programs and positive impact on the region's economy and quality of life. As a result, these stakeholders are appropriately involved and support bureau initiatives, and GoRockford is ensured of ongoing resources/funding to fulfill its mission and purpose.

CEO REPORT: This report on Ends Policy 1.3 covers the period since the last report in January 2025.

GoRockford's Community Relations and Public Affairs efforts focus on achieving the board's priority outlined in Ends Policy 1.3. The primary objective of our efforts is to effectively communicate the message that

1) Tourism is important for economic development and growth,
2) GoRockford is an effective and innovative steward of public and private funds, and
3) that investing in tourism marketing and destination development projects will further the positive impact of tourism and benefit our residents' quality of life.

The primary strategies under the community relations and public affairs plan include government relations, media relations, stakeholder communication and engagement, and community and industry outreach.

1. The role of tourism is valued by residents of Winnebago County.

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(no changes since last report)* Adult residents of Winnebago County should be aware of and value the positive economic and quality of life impacts of tourism in Winnebago County, even if not a direct stakeholder in the tourism industry. Though economic impacts are primary, residents should also recognize that tourism product benefits and enhances their quality of life (e.g., job creation/support, availability of sports and recreation amenities, entertainment venues, restaurants, sites and attractions, etc.).

CEO REPORT:
Over the past twelve months, GoRockford's work has continued to reinforce residents' understanding of the value of tourism as an economic driver and a quality-of-life enhancer for Winnebago County.

While the COVID-19 pandemic initially heightened awareness of the hospitality and tourism sector's importance, the period since the last monitoring report reflects a meaningful transition from awareness to active community participation and pride. Tourism is increasingly experienced by residents not as an abstract economic concept, but as a visible contributor to downtown vitality, neighborhood activation, cultural expression, recreation, and community identity.

Throughout 2025, GoRockford-supported initiatives consistently brought residents into shared public spaces alongside visitors. Signature events such as Stroll on State, IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford, Restaurant Week, Beats & Bites, Rockford Day, and others attracted substantial local attendance and participation. These events reinforced the connection between tourism investment and amenities that residents themselves enjoy, such as restaurants, arts and culture, sports facilities, riverfront spaces, and walkable downtown experiences.

GoRockford's destination marketing and storytelling efforts increasingly emphasize this shared benefit. Messaging across earned media, social platforms, e-newsletters, and community presentations consistently links tourism to job creation, small business sustainability, downtown redevelopment, cultural vibrancy, and regional pride. This approach has helped socialize and normalize tourism as an essential part of the region's economic ecosystem rather than a niche industry serving only visitors.

Resident sentiment has also been influenced by sustained third-party validation of the Rockford region. National media coverage naming Rockford among the hottest housing markets in the country and highlighting the region's affordability, amenities, and momentum has reinforced local confidence and optimism. These narratives, amplified locally by GoRockford, support the perception that tourism, talent attraction, and community development are interconnected.

Finally, GoRockford's ongoing engagement with residents through digital communications, public meetings, and event activations provides continual feedback loops that inform programming and messaging. This two-way communication ensures residents not only receive information about tourism's impact, but also see their community reflected in the region's destination narrative.

The most recent quantitative assessment of resident sentiment regarding tourism was conducted by MMGY NextFactor as part of the Destination Development Master Plan and remains the most current, comprehensive measure of awareness and perception available. Results demonstrate strong resident support for tourism and GoRockford's role in the community. 93.07% agreed tourism is "very important" or "important" to the Rockford Region, and 67.84% believe tourism's benefits outweigh any negative impacts. Nearly 98.5% of residents believe tourism has a positive or strong impact on the local economy, including 68.5% who believe visitors significantly improve economic outcomes, an increase from prior surveys.

Based on sustained resident participation in tourism-supported events, consistent community engagement with GoRockford programming, and the most recent resident sentiment data demonstrating strong awareness of GoRockford and broad recognition of tourism's economic and quality-of-life benefits, I conclude that the role of tourism is valued by residents of Winnebago County. Tourism investment is increasingly understood as integral to community vitality, downtown activation, and regional momentum.

I am reporting achievement.

2. Tourism initiatives & GoRockford are supported by government leaders and public policy.

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(no changes since last report)* With GoRockford funding so heavily reliant on governmental grants and contracts it is vital that government leaders and others who influence public policy recognize the economic and other tangible and intangible benefits the region derives from tourism and GoRockford's tourism marketing and development efforts, and that this recognition results in proactive support of tourism initiatives and GoRockford.

Additionally, support from government leaders is vital to advancing destination development strategies and projects. As policymakers and appropriators of public funds, it is vital that elected leaders are continually aware and supportive of the benefits of a comprehensive destination development strategy, as well as destination development projects and initiatives.

As outlined in prior CEO monitoring reports on 1.3, tourism priorities we committed to working toward include:

1. Support amenities and services related to Reclaiming First projects (i.e., signage, transportation).
2. Maintain or expand funding from the State of Illinois for statewide and local promotion efforts.
3. Maintain and expand support from the City of Rockford for Forest City Beautiful.
4. Secure new revenue from local municipal and government partners.
5. Continued momentum in Downtown Rockford redevelopment, i.e., approval to convert one-way streets to two-way, redevelopment agreement for a hotel/conference center.

CEO REPORT: ***The following demonstrates achievement since the last report:***

Since the last monitoring report, GoRockford has continued to demonstrate strong and sustained support from government leaders and public policymakers through public investment, trusted administration of local and state-funded programs, and alignment with regional economic development priorities.

At the state level, GoRockford continues to be recognized as a reliable steward of public funds. The organization is administering a $1.5 million State of Illinois restaurant recovery grant to support local restaurants still impacted by increased unemployment insurance costs resulting from the 2021 mandatory shutdown. Successful completion of multiple funding rounds and continued outreach efforts reflect the state's ongoing confidence in GoRockford's financial accountability and operational capacity.

GoRockford also maintains an active leadership role in statewide tourism advocacy through participation on the Illinois Destinations Association board of directors. This engagement has supported continued legislative recognition of tourism as an economic development tool, including sustained funding for the Local Tourism and Convention Bureau (LTCB) grant program and FY26 allocation to GoRockford.

Locally, GoRockford continues to work closely with the City of Rockford, Rockford Park District, and regional municipal partners to align tourism strategy with public investment in facilities and infrastructure. Regular coordination at the leadership and staff levels ensures that publicly funded assets are effectively leveraged to support overnight visitation, economic impact, and long-term destination competitiveness.

Public-sector support also extends to initiatives that connect tourism with broader workforce and population goals. Made for Rockford, supported in part through state funding and municipal collaboration, reflects growing policy alignment around talent attraction, workforce development, and community integration as shared regional priorities.

Collectively, continued public investment, policy advocacy, and institutional collaboration demonstrate that government leaders recognize the value of tourism and view GoRockford as a trusted partner in advancing shared economic and community development objectives.

I am reporting achievement.

3. Business and community leaders invest time, energy and money in tourism initiatives.

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(no changes since last report)* This End speaks to "broad support." When combined with provision 1.3.2 (government leader support) and 1.3.4 (media exposure), virtually all "leaders" in the Rockford Region are included. I interpret that the highest priority should be given to business and government leaders, as if the most prominent and respected individuals in these sectors actively advocate for tourism, it is likely that the media and especially governmental bodies will join in support.

I interpret this to suggest that for GoRockford to advance its priorities and initiatives, it is important for GoRockford to generate support in a variety of forms, both monetary and non-monetary. Tourism initiatives are inclusive of GoRockford-supported projects and priorities and efforts by others that advance the tourism industry.

As outlined in prior CEO monitoring reports on 1.3, examples of engagement that we prioritized were:

1. Grow private sector and philanthropic support for initiatives such as Stroll on State, CRE8IV and Forest City Beautiful, as new sources of funds will help sustain and expand such programs.
2. Continued growth in support for and attendance at GoRockford's Annual Meeting.
3. Regular meetings with elected officials, i.e., mayors, aldermen, state representatives and senators
4. Involvement with community-wide movements and initiatives such as Transform Rockford, Alignment Rockford, Next Rockford, etc.
5. Regular outreach/public affairs efforts via media relations, partner meetings, feedback sessions, etc.

CEO REPORT: ***The following demonstrates achievement toward those priorities listed above:***

- 2025 brought in the highest cash sponsor revenue to date for Stroll on State and Dasher Dash; however, due to an event-day blizzard, day-of revenue was down considerably. In addition, to support local businesses, all vendor fees were waived and returned post-event. In-kind sponsorships remained strong, including partnerships with RMTD, City of Rockford, Two Men & a Truck, SVL, Luxe Productions, Sunbelt Rentals, Prographics, Dreamers Like Me, Wonderland Dance Company, Rockford Dance Company, Urban Equities, RRDP, and more.

- As part of a partnership with the City of Rockford, the CRE8IV sculpture program installed 18 new sculptures throughout Rockford. The Rockford letters were also permanently placed along the riverbank. The program, started in 2018, now includes 34 pieces, 11 of which are on permanent display.

- Forest City Beautiful, a public/private partnership with the City of Rockford, continues to bring vibrancy throughout downtown and adjacent corridors. In the summer of 2025, the program added 36 hanging baskets and new city-owned lots. The program also includes 130 seasonal planters, 14 planted beds, over 800 street banners, and the I-90 gateway. The largest private donor renewed in 2025 with a 15% increase for an additional 3-years.

- As President/CEO, I hold regular meetings with elected officials and key personnel within the City of Rockford and community organizations. Staff hold quarterly group meetings with hoteliers and with marketing staff from partner organizations. New this year, Lindsay Arellano and our sales team formed a Sports Facilities advisory committee, and the group's second meeting will take place in February.

- Staff are actively involved in a variety of community and industry organizations, including
    - John Groh
        - River District Association, board president
        - Laurent House by Frank Lloyd Wright board
        - Rockford Area Arts Council board
        - Illinois Arts Council board
        - Illinois Destinations Association board
        - Destination International CDME board
        - Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce board
    - Lindsay Arellano is on the Sports Huddle planning committee
    - Kristen Paul is on the board of the Parks Chamber of Commerce
    - Whitney Martin is on the Greg Lindmark Foundation board, the GRCC's talent committee, and the Family Counseling Services Fundraising committee.

- Additional staff members are involved with several local groups, including the Midway Village Marketing Committee, the RAVE Diversity and Inclusion Board, the Rockford Network of Professional Women, the Rockford Chamber Advantage Club, the Next Rockford Strategy Board, the Juneteenth Committee, the Rockford Chamber Ambassador, the Rockford Symphony Board, and the NNGO Alumni Ambassador for NIU.

I am reporting achievement.

4. There is appropriate exposure of plans and activities in local and regional media.

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(no changes since last report)* I interpret appropriate exposure to mean that local and regional media outlets provide regular coverage of news provided and created by the GoRockford. Local and regional media outlets include television stations WIFR, WTVO/WQRF, WREX; radio companies Townsquare Media and Mid-West Family Broadcasting; as well as the Rockford Register Star and The Rock River Times.

CEO REPORT: GoRockford's local public relations strategy resulted in a high profile for GoRockford in the community through media coverage of GoRockford and GoRockford-partner events/news**.**

As outlined in prior CEO monitoring reports on 1.3, short-term targeted metrics/success indicators were:

1. Not less than eight news conferences are held by GoRockford and covered by local/regional media.
2. A minimum of 500 stories run in print and online and on TV/radio about bookings secured by GoRockford that include the economic impact of tourism.
3. A minimum of 20 interviews are conducted by local and regional media that look to GoRockford as a leader and a reliable source to provide comments for pertinent stories.

The following demonstrates achievement this past year:

- GoRockford staff created and distributed 37 news releases on topics including GoRockford Branded Car at NASCAR Race, AHL All Star Classic, Chicago Bears NFL Flag Regional, IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford, Illinois, CRE8IV Sculpture Program, Stroll on State, Made for Rockford, Rockford Restaurant Week, and other sporting events. In 2025, staff hosted five in-person news conferences (Rockford Restaurant Week Awards, GoRockford Car at NASCAR Announcement, CRE8IV Sculpture Program, IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford Press Event, Stroll on State) and participated in additional news conferences hosted by partners including ground-breaking at Maybelle Blair Park at Beyer Stadium, AHL All Star Classic, WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup, Rockford 815 Day and others.

- Total number of media mentions of GoRockford-related news was tracked by Meltwater with total placement/mentions of 4.42K media mentions and 3.87 billion in potential reach.

- Regular local weekly interviews with GoRockford staff talking about "What's Happening in the Rockford region" continue to include WIFR's The Morning Blend, WROK's NewsTalk 1440 with Riley O'Neil, and 96.7 The Eagle with Double T. Since the last report, there have been 156 interviews.

- During the year, there were approximately 100 interviews, including Stroll on State's Letters to Santa program, which appeared on NBC Nightly News. Other interviews with GoRockford staff related to Stroll on State, GoRockford programs, client events, news conferences, and general economic impact stories, etc.

- Staff regularly monitor local and regional media for news items related to the visitor industry and, when appropriate, contact media outlets to offer staff members as subject-matter experts. This often results in GoRockford receiving exposure via media outlets.

- GoRockford created and distributed 126 e-newsletters, (releases, Go Guides, leisure emails, partner e-blasts) which helps to convey GoRockford information to local partners, including media outlets and leisure travelers.

I am reporting achievement.

Prepared by: John Groh 1/19/26

102 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61101
Ph 815.963.8111

Date: January 19, 2026
To: GoRockford Board of Directors
From: John Groh, President & CEO
Re: Summary of:

- Internal Monitoring Report on Management Limitations
    - Monitoring on Policy 2.3 – Financial Planning / Budget

- Internal Monitoring Report on Executive Limitations
    - Monitoring on Policy 2.4 – Financial Condition and Activities

Monitoring Report 2.3 refers to fiscal and financial planning and budget.

Monitoring Report 2.4 deals with RACVB's ongoing financial condition and has attached the preliminary Balance Sheet, preliminary Summary Income Statement, and Cash Flow Statement as of December 31, 2025.

We are reporting compliance in all matters contained in monitoring reports for the period ending December 31, 2025, except 2.4.2.

Please call me with any questions regarding these reports.

John Groh
President & CEO

GoRockford
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Internal Monitoring Report - Management Limitations

December 31, 2025

Monitoring on Policy 2.3 – Financial Planning/Budget
Monitoring on Policy 2.4 – Financial Conditions and Activities

SUMMARY

1. Compliance:	The President/CEO reports compliance on all 2.3 and 2.4 monitoring reports, except 2.4.2.
2. Line of Credit:	GoRockford ended the month of December 2025 with a $0 balance on its line of credit.
3. Total Current Net Assets:	$1,583,928
4. Total Current Liabilities:	$1,181,067
5. Board Governance:	Budgeted $19,000 – year-to-date expense is $7,718
6. Total Operating Revenues:	$2,084,974 year to date on December 31, 2025, for FY26
7. Total Operating Expenses:	$2,040,979 year to date on December 31, 2025, for FY26
8. Trade Acts. Receivable:	$103,372 (does not include hotel taxes or grants)
9. Accounts Receivable Grants:	$10,399
10. Accounts Payable:	$150,329
11. Total Cash on Hand:	$1,160,733, including $85,557 Funds Held in Trust and $922,364 Designated Funds

SEE DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President & CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report - Management Limitations
Monitoring on Policy 2.3 – Financial Planning/Budget

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.3, "Financial Planning/Budget," in accordance with the monitoring schedule outlined in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is accurate.

Signed,

John Groh, President & CEO

January 19, 2026
Date

POLICY 2.3 – FINANCIAL PLANNING/BUDGETING

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION:

"Financial planning for any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year will not deviate materially from the Board's Ends Priority, risk fiscal jeopardy, or fail to address multi-year planning considerations."

CEO INTERPRETATION*: (Same as the previous report.)* Except for the multi-year planning component, I submit that the Board has comprehensively interpreted this broadest policy statement in its subsequent provisions.

Regarding multi-year planning, I interpret this policy to require that we sufficiently project all capital and depreciation needs and develop the necessary financial resources to achieve our Board's Priority End Results. I also interpret this policy to mean that, as the President & CEO, I have the flexibility to revise budgetary projections throughout the year. However, I am required to keep the Board apprised of any material changes, and these changes must meet all the criteria outlined in this policy.

My interpretations and data reporting are presented below. I will utilize the fiscal information provided in the preliminary financial statements as of December 31, 2025.

REPORT: On June 25, 2025, the board approved a twelve-month budget for the fiscal year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026), with a projected net profit of $8,012 after depreciation of $75,000.

Accordingly, the President & CEO shall not allow budgeting that:

2.3.1 "Risks incurring those situations or conditions described as unacceptable in the "Financial Conditions and Activities" Board policies 2.4.1 - 2.4.4."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I interpret this policy to require that I ensure that financial plans and budgets prepared do not involve liquidity risk situations and conditions described as unacceptable in Section 2.4 of the Financial Condition and Activities Board policies. These policies include items such as expending more funds than have been received during a fiscal year relative to operating reserve guidelines, incurring debt for the organization, settling payroll and payables on time, and ensuring the timely filing of government payments and filings.

REPORT: On June 25, 2025, the board adopted a twelve-month FY25 budget for the period from July 2025 through June 2026. The annual budget was approved with a projected profit of $8,012 after depreciation of $75,000.

The bureau did not draw on the line of credit during the last fiscal year due to stable hotel tax revenue and conservative spending. All budgeted revenue for FY26 is consistent with our mission, and all revenue received during the quarter ended December 31, 2025, was from sources consistent with our mission.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.2 "Omits credible projection of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosure of planning assumptions."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I interpret this policy to mean that the budget prepared, utilized, and available for presentation must have adequate data to support the credibility of projections. It must highlight the separation of capital items from operational expenses, include a presentation of cash flow expectations for the year, and convey the key assumptions used in creating the projections.

REPORT: The VP of Finance & Administration, along with the President/CEO and program directors, developed the annual budget based on sales and marketing plans, historical financial data, and projected revenue from hotel taxes, state grants, and other predictable sources. Capital expenditures were budgeted separately from expenses. A cash flow projection and a narrative budget summary of assumptions were prepared and shared with the Audit Committee and the GoRockford Board for budget approval.

Management receives monthly financial reports that compare actual results to the budget, and the GoRockford Board receives quarterly financial reports, which include a cash flow statement and a financial analysis of any unanticipated activity. We ended the quarter of December 2025 with a $0 balance on our line of credit, demonstrating that our revenue, expenses, and cash flow projections were reliable.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.3 "Plans the expenditure in any fiscal year of more funds than are conservatively projected to be received."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy requires that a conservative projection of revenues must exceed our most realistic projection of expenses for any fiscal year.

REPORT: Only revenue that is contracted for, on hand from the retained earnings of prior years, or reasonably attainable (e.g., sponsorships) is budgeted.

The projected twelve-month FY26 budget shows a profit of $8,012 after depreciation. Before the depreciation of $75,000, the budget had projected a net income of $83,012.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.4 "Omits allocation for board prerogatives during the year than as set forth in the Cost of Governance Board policy 4.10."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** As the Board establishes its budget for what it believes is important to invest in its own governance, this policy requires that I ensure that the annual budget I prepare for the corporation as a whole allocates at least as much as is stated in the Cost of Governance policy for board prerogatives and functions.

REPORT: The amount outlined in our approved FY26 budget for the cost of Board prerogatives is $19,000 and is budgeted for board consulting, retreats, and legal fees.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.5 "Fails to maintain operating reserves equivalent to three months of basic operating expenses. Operating reserves are defined as available cash on hand in cash or highly liquid assets and do not include any line of credit or other form of cash flow debt instruments in the calculation thereof."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as previous report)*** I interpret this policy regarding liquidity to require that our financial planning must maintain cash or cash equivalents of at least three months of basic operational costs (estimated at approximately $450,000 for FY26 under the approved budget). As outlined in the policy, this includes cash on hand and highly liquid assets, which I interpret to include the calculation of total short-term assets less short-term liabilities. Additionally, the calculation of operating reserves does not include access to any line of credit or other form of cash flow debt instruments.

NOTE: In June 2023, the board approved a new Reserve Fund Policy that calls for building a designated cash reserve fund over time up to 25% of the annual expense budget for personnel and operations, in combination with the $250,000 line of credit already in place (thus, approximately $200,000 for FY26, complemented by the existing $250,000 line of credit). This will be funded from operating revenue, specifically hotel tax revenue, one of our few revenue streams that is not designated.

REPORT: As of December 31, 2025, the bureau's operating reserve bank account balance was approximately $62,500, with monthly transfers of $2,500 from the operating account to the reserve account. Thus, we are on track to implement the new policy's recommendations and requirements.

At the current transfer rate of $2,500/month, the reserve fund will grow by $30,000 annually. Assuming continued funding and no withdrawals, the balance is projected to reach the target by August 2030.

Revisions to Board Policies 2.3 and 2.4 are recommended to ensure consistency and clarity across governing documents. These revisions should explicitly acknowledge the Reserve Fund Policy and incorporate the designated reserve fund as a distinct component of the organization's overall liquidity and risk management strategy.

As we comply with the new Reserve Fund Policy, I am reporting compliance.

REFER TO DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS
Attachments: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow
Prepared by: John Groh and Joanne Nold 1/19/26

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President & CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report- Executive Limitations
Quarterly Monitoring on Policy 2.4 – Financial Condition and Activities

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.4, "Financial Condition and Activities", in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report and the accompanying Income Statement and Balance Sheet are accurate in all material respects.

Signed,

John Groh, President & CEO — January 19, 2026 (Date)

POLICY 2.4 – FINANCIAL CONDITION AND ACTIVITIES

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION:

"With respect to the financial condition and activities, the President & CEO will not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from the board's Ends priorities."

CEO's INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I submit that the board's concerns about avoidance of fiscal jeopardy are comprehensively interpreted in this policy's subsequent provisions. Regarding expenditures, I interpret "material deviation of actual expenditures from the Board's Ends priorities" to mean the avoidance of waste, such that all expenditures are to be viewed as investments towards achieving GoRockford's Ends.

REPORT: My interpretations and reporting data on the fiscal jeopardy provisions are presented with those provisions noted below. With respect to expenditures deviating from Ends policies, anticipated expenditures itemized in our FY26 budget are reviewed by the Board when monitoring to ensure adherence to our Financial Planning/Budgeting Policy (2.3). Material variances (none this reporting period) are noted in the monitoring of provision 2.4.5 below.

Accordingly, he/she may not:

2.4.1 "Expend more funds than have been received in the fiscal year to date unless the operating reserve guidelines are met according to 2.3.5."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy requires that year-to-date expenses be less than corresponding revenues. Any exceptions are subject to the operating reserve guidelines.

REPORT: As of December 31, 2025, we have recorded operating revenues of $2,084,974 and incurred operating expenses (expenditures of funds) before depreciation of $2,40,979, resulting in a profit from operations of $43,995. After deducting depreciation expense, we report a net profit of $6,495 for the fiscal year. The approved budget projected a net profit of $60,247 after Q2. We are meeting our operating reserve requirements; therefore, we are reporting compliance.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.2 "Indebt the organization, with the exception of: credit cards or credit accounts used for regular business purposes and paid in full each month; accessing a Board-approved Line of Credit in an amount not to exceed $100,000, with notification to Board Governance Committee of any draws on the line within four business days of each draw. Draws of over $100,000 require Board approval. Any draw on the line should be viewed as a short-term float and be accompanied by a plan for repayment, ideally within 90 days.

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy gives the CEO the latitude to approve any draws against the line of credit (currently maintained at $250,000) within the parameters explicitly stated in the policy provision.

Furthermore, I am responsible for ensuring that GoRockford credit cards are used solely for business purposes and that balances are paid in full each month. However, consistent with my interpretation of Policy 2.4.3, I interpret that other credit accounts can be settled by the due date if terms are explicitly agreed upon, and otherwise within 30 to 60 days.

REPORT: The Bureau entered the quarter with a balance of $0 on the line of credit. As no draws were made during the quarter, the line of credit balance at the end of December 2025 was $0.

In May 2022, the board approved the bureau borrowing up to $100,000 for improvements to the building at 310 S. Winnebago St. On September 14, 2022, the bureau received a $100,000 loan from IL Bank & Trust to cover the costs of major roof repairs and masonry work. The loan is amortized over a 30-year repayment schedule at 6.15% interest, with monthly payments of $1,940 starting on October 14, 2022, to repay the loan in 5 years. The building secures the loan.

The board officers approved, and the board subsequently ratified, the Bureau's application for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) in April 2020. The initial loan proceeds of $10,000 were received on May 1, 2020, and were forgivable under the program. The final loan proceeds of $75,400 were received on June 19, 2020, and carry a 30-year term at 2.75%. Monthly payments of $322 began in December 2022 after multiple deferrals. As of October 2025, the Bureau is making payments that include both interest and principal.

On September 22, 2025, GoRockford entered into a three-year auto lease agreement for a new Ford Explorer with monthly payments of $599. There was no money down, and the auto lease expense was included in the board-approved FY26 budget.

Finally, corporate credit cards and accounts were used solely for typical business purchases during the quarter ended September 30, 2025, with one exception. During the quarter, there were two violations related to non-business purchases made with a corporate credit card. The staff member unintentionally used a CVB-issued card for two personal purchases totaling $166 and immediately reimbursed the bureau for the purchases upon self-identifying the error.

I am reporting non-compliance.

2.4.3 "Operate without settling payroll and payables in a timely manner."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Payroll must be paid as required every other Friday. For other payables, I interpret "timely" to mean by the due date if terms are specifically agreed upon and otherwise within thirty to sixty days.

REPORT: As of December 31, 2025, trade accounts payable totaled $150,329. Payables continue to be settled within 30 to 45 days, unless they depend on grant funding that has been delayed. In those situations, we have received payment flexibility from the vendors. Payroll has been paid on time, bi-weekly.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.4 "Allow tax or other government ordered payments or filings to be overdue or inaccurately filed. Requirements include but are not limited to annual independent audits, audit compliance, annual 990 statements, annual budgets, quarterly activity reports and financial statements, minutes, and agendas from Board meetings.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (***Same as the previous report.)*** All tax and government-required payments or filings must be made promptly and accurately.

REPORT: All withholding taxes and other such payments or filings for the period have been made on time and accurately. Federal and state income tax withholdings have been submitted to the proper taxing authorities within 5 business days following the payroll dates. Federal and state unemployment taxes have been paid by the end of the month following the payroll quarter. There are no outstanding filings, and there have been no late penalties. The annual Form 990 for the year ended June 30, 2025, has been filed by the extended due date.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.5 "Make a single purchase or commitment of greater than $25,000 unless such purchase was explicitly itemized in monitoring reports previously disclosed to the board. Splitting orders and /or paying from two consecutive fiscal years to avoid this limit is not acceptable."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** The Board must specifically approve all single expenditures of more than $25,000 that were not previously disclosed as part of budget monitoring data.

Further, I interpret that individual expenditures paid to a single vendor and, in the aggregate, exceeding $25,000 do not require board approval if they are within the overall projected expense for the fiscal year. As noted in the policy, splitting payments to avoid this limit is not acceptable.

REPORT: During the quarter, no purchase exceeding $25,000 was made that was not specifically budgeted or subsequently approved by the board.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.6 "Solely execute payments in an amount greater than $5,000, or solely execute any payments to himself/herself. Signatures are to be in the priority order of signing as outlined in Policy 4.8.2.C where signatures on checks are required by Board members."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (***Same as the previous report.)*** No checks or electronic fund transfers (EFTs) can be solely executed in an amount greater than $5,000, nor solely executed as payments to the President/CEO.

REPORT: (***Same as the previous report.) During*** this period, no checks for amounts greater than $5,000 have been executed solely, and no payments have been made solely to the President/CEO. Other signatories were as specified in Policy 4.3.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.7 "Acquire, encumber, lease or dispose of real property."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (***Same as the previous report.)*** All decisions regarding the purchase or sale of land or buildings are considered to be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

REPORT: (***Same as the previous report.)*** No real property has been encumbered, acquired, or disposed of during this period.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.8 "Operate without aggressively pursuing material receivables in accordance with commonly accepted practices."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (*Same as the previous report*) I interpret a "reasonable grace period" to be sixty (60) days and "material" to be receivables that, when collected, are of greater value than the cost of collection (including staff time). I interpret "aggressively pursuing" to require regular follow-up in writing, over the phone when all other avenues have been exhausted, and when the cost would benefit the recovery utilizing a collection agency.

REPORT: At the end of this period, no material receivables were outstanding.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.9 "Obtain revenues from sources that are not, in fact and appearance, legal and consistent with the ends policies, mission and values of the organization."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I interpret this policy as allowing staff to identify and generate new revenue streams and sources without requiring explicit board approval (as long as they meet the "prudence" test). However, "prudence" in this case is further defined to preclude any revenue sources that conflict with our mission and values and thus could provide embarrassment to the organization and its constituents.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** During this period, no revenues have been obtained from sources that are inconsistent with GoRockford's mission and values or would provide embarrassment to GoRockford or its constituents.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.10 "Use restricted funds for purposes other than stated by the contributor or use Board designated funds except as explicitly authorized by the Board."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy requires that we manage finances consistently with generally accepted accounting principles regarding the segregation and use of restricted funds. "Restricted" contributions are monies directed to GoRockford to be used for a specific purpose. Board-designated funds are those funds the board had pre-determined to hold in reserve for specific purposes.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Finances have been managed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and any restricted funds will be reported separately in the balance sheet attached to this report. Funds have only been used for their intended purposes.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.11 "Operate without adequate internal controls over receipts and disbursements to avoid unauthorized payments or material dissipation of assets. The organization shall not have secret funds, and it shall prohibit any unaudited transactions or loans."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report)*** Controls must be in place to ensure all receipts are properly recorded, and disbursements are appropriately authorized. Further, all payments (checks, EFTs, credit card purchases, petty cash, etc.) must have corresponding documentation sufficient to satisfy the auditor. Finally, we may not make unaudited loans of any type.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Internal controls in place are consistent with Board policy and the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) prescribed by the Board-appointed auditors. As part of the annual audit, the independent auditor reviews our internal control procedures in place during the year. The organization does not have secret funds and does not allow unaudited transactions or loans. The most recent FY25 audit reported a clean opinion.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.12 "Pledge any of the assets of the corporation as security within any contracts."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** No assets can be pledged as security within any contracts without board approval.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** During the period, no corporation assets were pledged as security within any contracts.

In June 2020, the board approved the bureau's application for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan in the amount of $75,400. The loan required the bureau to pledge personal property as collateral.

In May 2022, the board approved the bureau to obtain a loan secured by the newly acquired building at 310 S. Winnebago St. to finance major building improvements. A $100,000 loan was obtained on September 15, 2022, from Illinois Bank & Trust. The loan is secured by the building.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.13 "Allow the expenditure of organizational funds for travel purposes which are not specifically related to or consistent with the organization's purpose and functions."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Compliance with this policy is achieved when all travel expenses can be justified as reasonable investments toward achieving our Priority Results.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** All travel expenditures during the quarter have been consistent with the organization's purpose and function.

I am reporting compliance.

REFER TO DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIALS
Attachments: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow. Prepared by: John Groh and Joanne Nold 1/19/26

Rockford Area ConventionisitorsBureau
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025
January 15, 2026

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Petty Cash	$ 132.00	
Cash - Operating IL B & T	46,182.69	
Cash - Designated Funds	922,364.44	
Cash - Capital Planning & Dev	33,055.95	
Cash - Private Sector Funds	13,266.82	
Cash - Operating Reserve	60,174.79	
Cash - Funds Held in Trust	85,556.75	
Accounts Receivable	10,399.50	
Other Grants Receivable	104,984.20	
City/County Gov't Receivable	140,906.86	
LTCB Grant Receivable	18,256.13	
Due from Foundation	2,658.72	
Other Receivables	59,697.76	
Inventory	7,050.79	
Prepaid Expenses	79,240.42	
Total Current Assets		1,583,927.82
Property and Equipment		
Furniture & Equipment	577,917.08	
Leasehold Improvements	635,079.30	
Accumulated Depreciation	(975,127.92)	
Total Property and Equipment		237,868.46
Other Assets		
ROU Asset - Operating Leases	59,402.03	
Acc. Amort - ROU Asset - Oper	(16,836.91)	
Long-Term Receivable	718,010.20	
Total Other Assets		760,575.32
Total Assets		**$ 2,582,371.60**

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Current Liabilities		
Funds Held in Trust	$ 84,486.28	
Accounts Payable-Operating	150,328.99	
Accrued Payroll	78,230.15	
Accrued Vacation Pay	46,064.29	
Payroll Taxes and Withholding	4,378.23	
Unearned Income	801,199.14	
SBA Loan Payable - Current	1,726.94	
Current Lease Liablity - ROU	14,653.18	
Total Current Liabilities		1,181,067.20
Long-Term Liabilities		
Unearned Income	1,013,548.20	
SBA Loan Payable - LT	73,196.39	
LT Lease Liability - ROU Asset	14,734.88	
Total Long-Term Liabilities		1,101,479.47
Total Liabilities		2,282,546.67
Capital		
Net Assets	293,330.61	
Net Income	6,494.32	
Total Capital		299,824.93
Total Liabilities & Capital		**$ 2,582,371.60**

	Current Month	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance	Annual Budget
OPERATING REVENUES					
City/County Gov't Agreements	$ 141,391	971,024	$ 1,015,160	(44,136)	$ 1,804,600
County, other city contracts	1,362	9,536	11,797	(2,261)	18,232
Marketing Partnership Grant	0	0	0	0	100,000
LTCB Grant Revenue	47,476	284,857	284,857	0	569,714
Other Grant Revenue	0	251,445	251,859	(414)	924,359
Stroll on State	38,764	303,540	354,000	(50,460)	354,000
CRE8IV Revenue	3,341	90,525	91,062	(537)	103,062
Forest City Beautiful	14,200	95,875	96,000	(125)	201,704
Other Revenue	33,324	65,632	66,384	(752)	714,434
Advertising Revenue	884	7,657	9,625	(1,968)	19,250
Miscellaneous Income	393	2,478	2,750	(272)	5,500
Interest Revenue	438	2,405	2,000	405	4,000
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	281,573	2,084,974	2,185,494	(100,520)	4,818,855
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Total Personnel	114,212	777,831	776,519	1,312	1,553,560
Total Operations	28,255	133,331	131,505	1,826	246,636
Total Activities	158,325	1,129,817	1,179,723	(49,906)	2,935,647
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	300,792	2,040,979	2,087,747	(46,768)	4,735,843
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	(19,219)	43,995	97,747	(53,752)	83,012
NON OPERATING REVENUE FROM PARTNERS					
In-Kind Revenue	8,305	54,463	42,690	11,773	85,380
PARTNERSHIP REVENUE	(8,305)	(54,463)	(42,690)	(11,773)	(85,380)
NON OPERATING EXPENSES FROM PARTNERS					
Inkind Expenses	8,305	54,463	42,690	11,773	85,380
PARTNERSHIP EXPENSE	8,305	54,463	42,690	11,773	85,380
INCOME FROM PARTNERS	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation Expense	6,250	37,500	37,500	0	75,000
NET INCOME	**($ 25,469)**	**6,495**	**$ 60,247**	**(53,752)**	**$ 8,012**

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
FY26 Cash Flow Schedule

	Actual July	Actual August	Actual September	Actual October	Actual November	Actual December	Projected January	Projected February	Projected March	Projected April	Projected May	Projected June
RECEIPTS												
Hotel taxes	$142,101	$241,031	$148,319	$152,744	$173,633	$147,010	$95,634	$114,508	$106,950	$152,171	$154,398	$172,215
Grant proceeds	$0	$403,500	$386,042	$51,145	$197,304	$0	$110,284	$69,034	$169,034	$215,061	$69,034	$110,284
Foundation transfers	$0	$9,040	$108,770	$0	$100,000	$109,038	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$102,509
Other	$12,574	$130,588	$19,657	$60,333	$6,832	$15,589	$9,113	$7,431	$7,431	$7,431	$33,127	$7,431
Total receipts	$154,675	$784,158	$662,788	$264,221	$477,769	$271,637	$215,030	$190,972	$283,414	$374,664	$256,558	$392,439
DISBURSEMENTS												
Personnel	$124,279	$167,463	$131,285	$127,279	$113,304	$114,212	$175,367	$120,540	$120,540	$120,540	$120,540	$120,540
Operating	$12,370	$15,291	$27,542	$32,072	$17,462	$28,255	$18,362	$18,362	$18,362	$18,362	$18,362	$18,362
Program activities	$187,468	$154,840	$140,515	$115,821	$255,100	$90,742	$559,910	$174,910	$159,910	$159,910	$275,535	$180,735
Total expenses	$324,117	$337,594	$299,342	$275,172	$385,866	$233,209	$753,639	$313,812	$298,812	$298,812	$414,437	$319,637
Capital purchases	$0	$20,704	$17,515	$31,520	$1,380	$5,398	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Debt payments -EIDL/leases	$27,947	$322	$322	$698	$698	$698	$698	$698	$698	$698	$698	$698
FY25 payroll/payables	$0	$156,252	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total disbursements	$352,064	$514,872	$317,179	$307,390	$387,944	$239,305	$754,337	$314,510	$299,510	$299,510	$415,135	$320,335
Increase (Decrease) in cash	**($197,389)**	**$269,286**	**$345,609**	**($43,169)**	**$89,825**	**$32,332**	**($539,307)**	**($123,538)**	**($16,096)**	**$75,153**	**($158,577)**	**$72,104**
Beginning cash balance	$518,374	$320,985	$590,272	$935,881	$892,712	$982,536	$1,014,869	$475,562	$352,023	$335,927	$411,080	$252,503
End of month cash balance	$320,985	$590,272	$935,881	$892,712	$982,536	$1,014,869	$475,562	$352,023	$335,927	$411,080	$252,503	$324,607

Cash Balance does not include Funds Held in Trust and Operating Reserve accounts

Governing Policy of the

GoRockford Board of Directors

Executive Limitations Policy 2.8 – Communication & Support to the Board ***Management Limitations***

To: Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Management Limitations Policies
Monitoring on Policy 2.8 – Communication & Support to the Board

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.8 – Communication & Support to the Board, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true for the six-month period ending January 2026.

Signed,

__________________________ January 19, 2026

John Groh/President/CEO

POLICY 2.8 – COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT TO THE BOARD

"The President/CEO will not permit the board to be uninformed or unsupported in its work."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) One of the primary obligations of the CEO is to ensure the board has all necessary facts, evidence, knowledge and resources for the fulfillment of its role, as the board has defined it in its governing policies. I submit that the subsequent provisions comprehensively define this policy. Interpretations and reporting data are presented below.

"Accordingly, he or she may not:"

2.8.1 "Neglect to submit monitoring reports (including the President/CEO's policy interpretations, as well as compliance/achievement data) required by the board (see policy 3.4 on Monitoring President/CEO Performance in Board/Staff Linkage) in a timely, accurate and understandable fashion."

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(No changes since last report)* The CEO shall submit monitoring reports in the month designated in policy 3.4. Each report shall include an interpretation of each policy, indicating whether that interpretation is new (noting whether any material changes have been made since the last report), data that is factually accurate, and enough data for the board to make an informed judgment as to whether compliance/achievement is reasonably substantiated. I interpret "timely" to mean the board receives the report in advance of the scheduled board meeting, during which they will review the report. I interpret "understandable" to mean that the information provided, and the logic outlined in the report, would make sense to most people.

REPORT: With one exception, all monitoring reports for the period were submitted within the specified month and distributed to the board prior to board meetings in compliance with policy 4.3.3.c.

- January 28, 2026
  - 1.0 Global Ends
  - 1.1 Create Economic Wealth
    (deferred from October to December, submitted January)
  - 1.3 Communicate with Constituents
  - 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
  - 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities
- December 17, 2025
  - 2.5 Asset Protection
- October 22, 2025
  - 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
  - 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities
- September 24, 2025
  - 2.0 Executive Constraint
  - 2.6 Emergency CEO Succession
  - 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
- July 23, 2025
  - 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
  - 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities

The board has not conveyed any concerns about accuracy or their ability to comprehend the information and data presented. All reports were approved, and in doing so, the board accepted the CEO's interpretations as reasonable and that the reports demonstrated compliance or achievement.

I am reporting non-compliance.

2.8.2 "Let the board be unaware of any actual or anticipated noncompliance with any Ends or Management Limitations policy, regardless of the monitoring schedule set forth by the board."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) The CEO shall notify the board whenever there is an incurred or anticipated violation of Board Ends or Executive Limitations policy. I interpret "in a timely manner" to vary depending on the perceived importance of the non-compliance issue. Where the importance is deemed by me to be serious or potentially damaging to the organization, actual or anticipated non-compliance issues should be reported as soon as they are known. When the importance is deemed to be minor and the period of non-compliance is expected to be brief or related to an ongoing circumstance previously brought to the board's attention, non-compliance should be at least reported in the regularly (or otherwise) scheduled monitoring report.

REPORT: There were no such issues during this reporting period.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.3 "Let the board be without objective background/decision information it periodically requests, or unaware of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal/organizational changes. The Board should be notified in advance of material internal changes, when feasible.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) At its request or when the board is preparing to make policy decisions, I am to submit background information and/or provide opportunities for dialogue with and/or data from industry experts, as requested by the board, on the pros and cons of the options being considered, and/or those otherwise available and in my estimation viable for board consideration. While some bias as CEO is, in my estimation, inevitable, I am obligated to temper any such bias with the presentation of objective information.

Further, I am to keep the board aware of observed industry and/or community trends that may impact favorably or negatively on the organization. In addition to formal reporting on board policies, I am to keep the board apprised of material developments. Material external changes such as major developments in our industry sector, issues with major stakeholders, legal challenges, etc., are to be conveyed to the board no later than the next board meeting, but perhaps sooner than dictated by the situation. The criteria for timeliness of board awareness of issues such as negative media coverage or litigation are based on when the material will become public and/or otherwise impact the organization. I interpret material internal changes to be issues such as significant revisions to strategy, to revenues or expenditures (that are compliant with our financial policies) or personnel changes at or above mid-management.

REPORT: When apprised by the board chair of action items on upcoming agendas, staff and I regularly prepare background information for inclusion in board packets or other communications. We aim to present logical and reasonable options and recommendations, including the pros and cons of each, and to ensure that all new board members are equipped to govern in accordance with approved policies.

In all cases, care is taken to provide information that is as complete and unbiased as possible. The board has not conveyed any concerns about a lack of adequate or objective information being presented.

The board has been informed of any material ***external*** changes by the next board meeting, or sooner as the situation dictates. The following examples demonstrate compliance June 2025-December 2025):

- On June 18, the board was informed of the details for volunteering to serve at the IRONMAN 70.3 race on Sunday, June 22.
- On July 24, the board received an update on the progress of the Davis Park redevelopment and a request for concurrence on a strategic funding proposal to help ensure the full project moves forward.
- On July 25, the board received a guest editorial John authored, published in the *Rockford Register Star*. The piece publicly expressed GoRockford's longstanding and strong support for the Davis Park redevelopment plan and urged the Rockford City Council to approve the project in its entirety.

- On August 28, the board was informed of the Rockford Park District announcing the availability of building naming rights at a news conference.
- On August 28, the board was provided highlights from the 2024 Illinois Tourism Economic Impact Report, prepared by Tourism Economics, a division of Oxford Economics, for the State of Illinois.
- On September 9, the board was informed that the International Women's Baseball Center (IWBC) received a $2,000,000 grant from the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation, led by philanthropist and Mets Owner Alex Cohen, and a $350,000 grant from the Amazin' Mets Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the New York Mets.
- On September 26, I invited the board to the IWBC groundbreaking ceremony at Beyer Stadium on October 6.

The board has been notified in a timely manner of material ***internal*** changes. For example, the board is notified in advance of media coverage regarding the organization (positive or negative), as we are aware of the coverage. The following demonstrates compliance:

- On July 10, the board was informed that Kristen Paul had earned the Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME) designation from Destinations International.
- On September 26, the board was informed that we are $52,000 short of our sponsorship goal for both Stroll and the Dasher Dash and asked for potential prospects.
- On November 12, the board received an email sharing the excitement that UMB Bank agreed to continue as the Presenting Sponsor for Stroll on State for an additional three years – 2026, 2027, and 2028.
- On November 26, the board received an update on the snowy forecast for Stroll on State and on contingency plans.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.4 "Let the board be unaware of Board or Board member actions that, in the President/CEO's opinion, are not consistent with the board's own policies on Governance Process and Board/Staff Linkage, particularly in the case of Board or Board member behavior that is detrimental to the work relationship between the board and the President/CEO.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) I am to notify the board chair if I am aware of any board or board members' actions that are inconsistent with the board's own policies, especially if such actions undermine the board/CEO relationship. In the case of perceived non-compliance on behalf of the chair, I will report non-compliance issues directly to the board if the perceived non-compliance is not resolved after discussing the concern with the chair directly.

REPORT: There were no such issues during this reporting period for GoRockford's board.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.5 "Present information in unnecessarily complex or lengthy form or without differentiating among three types of written communications:

a. monitoring

b. decision preparation, and

c. incidental/ "FYI"

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) Correspondence to the board is to be concise and identified as one of the three types listed in the policy. I interpret "monitoring" to be those items connected with the designated monitoring reports. I interpret "decision preparation" to be background material necessary or helpful for decision-making and "incidental" to be information/FYI type material.

REPORT: Information in all correspondence with and materials provided to the board (especially board meeting packets) has been labeled as either monitoring report-related, informational/FYI, or for preparation to make decisions or act. If the communication is urgent or requires immediate action, the content is labeled accordingly. Board meeting agendas are clear and indicate where attachments are included or action is required.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.6 "Allow the Board to be without logistical and administrative support for official board, officer or committee communications and activities."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) As CEO, I am to ensure adequate support for operations of the board, its officers and committees. I interpret "official" to mean those functions dealing with the carrying out of the board's governing responsibilities, including those of its officers and committees. Examples of support include arranging meeting schedules, meeting space, fulfilling communication needs, copying and distributing correspondence and materials, recording minutes, providing refreshments, etc.

REPORT: Staff support for board functions, including production and distribution of board meeting packets, minutes, meeting logistics, and refreshments, and similar arrangements for the work of the board and official board committees, is regularly provided. No concerns to the contrary have been conveyed by the board to the CEO.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.7 "Deal with the board in a way that favors or privileges certain board members over others, except when (a) fulfilling individual requests for information or (b) responding to officers or committees duly charged by the board.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) This is interpreted as meaning that I am to view the board, collectively, as my superior and am to provide communications about board issues and policy choices to all board members, rather than just to the chair and/or board members I may view as "sympathetic" to my concerns.

The exceptions are the two circumstances stated above as "a" and "b," and I also interpret an exception to be when working with individual board members in their occasional capacities as "volunteer staff members." While I am to pass requests for agenda items to the chair, the background information supporting my request is to be distributed to all board members. I further interpret that this is pertinent only to business dealings, not to personal or social relationships.

REPORT: Monitoring reports, informational content, and background information on action items are distributed to all board members. Significant e-mail exchanges and other conversations have and do take place with individual board members, either as colleagues or pursuant to exceptions set forth in the policy, but this correspondence does not limit the board's awareness or authority.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.8 "Neglect to supply for the consent agenda those items delegated to the President/CEO yet required by law or contract to be Board approved, along with applicable monitoring information."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) The CEO will submit for the board's agenda all items that require board approval when such is mandated by third-party business requirements, the law, or per board policy. When such items are submitted, the background information supporting the action item will include written substantiation of adherence to relevant board policies.

REPORT: Staff regularly executes agreements, contracts, and reports with government and private entities, all within the approved executive limitations policies. No such instances of required consent agenda items have been documented during the time frame of this report.

I am reporting compliance.

Prepared by: John Groh, Leah Ticknor 1/19/2026

Governing Policy of the

GoRockford Board of Directors

Ends Policy 1.0 Global Ends Statement ***Management Limitations***

To: GoRockford Board of Directors
From: John Groh, President/CEO
RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Ends Policies
Annual Monitoring on Policy 1.0 – Global Ends Statement

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Executive Limitations Policy 1.0, Global Ends Statement, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

Signed,

John Groh
President/CEO

March 19, 2026

POLICY 1.0 – GLOBAL ENDS STATEMENT

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION: "GoRockford exists to drive quality of life and economic growth for our residents through tourism marketing, sales and destination development."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (Updated to Reflect Jan. 2026 Revisions to Policy 1.0) I interpret this statement to mean the basic, fundamental mission of GoRockford is to utilize its funding, human resources, and all other available strengths and assets to improve the quality of life of area citizens, and that we do this by ensuring the continued growth of the visitor industry in the Rockford Region, defined as Winnebago County.

I interpret the inclusion of marketing, sales and destination development as the board's directive to pursue a three-pronged strategy. This strategy should focus attention and resources on marketing/promoting and selling our region's existing products while always keeping an eye toward the future and advocating for new development projects, priorities, and enhancements that will keep our region appealing to citizens (quality of life) and visitors.

Further, in restating its Global Ends Statement (first approved in April 2014 and reaffirmed in 2020 and 2026), GoRockford's board desires that we have a "residents first" mentality. Said another way, our approach is guided by the underlying thought that "what is good for and appealing to a resident will likely be attractive and compelling to a visitor."

GoRockford's board and staff maintain Policy 1.0 as our primary goal and "bottom line", which guides the allocation of resources, defines strategy, and directs implementation. Further, the board provides GoRockford with four directives for achieving Policy 1.0 and delineates those priorities in Policy 1.1 – Create Economic Growth, Policy 1.2 – Enhance Tourism Product, Policy 1.3 – Engage Constituents on Behalf of Tourism, and Policy 1.4 – Elevate the Brand, which we use in developing its strategy.

These four priorities comprehensively define the impacts GoRockford can create for the Rockford Region, given available resources, and when achieved, collectively represent achievement of our mission.

REPORT: Monitoring reports presented for Policy 1.1 (March 25, 2026), Policy 1.2 (April 23, 2025), and Policy 1.3 (January 28, 2026) detail how effectively GoRockford is achieving its goals in each area. All reports noted achievement. Policy 1.4 was adopted in January 2026; achievement will be reported in future monitoring reports.

As I have reported achievement in reports on 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 within the past year, I am reporting achievement of your Global Ends Statement, Policy 1.0.

Governing Policy of the
GoRockford Board of Directors

Ends Policy 1.1: Create Economic Wealth

Management Limitations

To: GoRockford Board of Directors
From: John Groh, President/CEO
Date: March 19, 2026
RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Ends Policies
Monitoring on Policy 1.1 – Create Economic Wealth

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Executive Limitations Policy 1.1, Create Economic Wealth, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true for the period from October 3, 2024, to the present.

Signed,

John Groh
President/CEO

POLICY *1.1 - CREATE ECONOMIC GROWTH: The Rockford Region experiences growth in tourism's leading indicators at a rate greater than our competitive set.*

- *Visitor spending grows*
- *Hotel performance metrics improve (demand, occupancy, ADR, RevPAR)*
- *Group business activity increases (leads, room nights, attendance)*
- *Hotel tax and food and beverage tax revenues grow*
- *Attractions and event attendance increase*

CEO INTERPRETATION: For purposes of this policy, the "Rockford Region" is defined as Winnebago County. Success is defined as sustained, long-term growth in key tourism indicators relative to our competitive set.

Achievement will be evaluated based on overall trends and performance over time, rather than isolated year-to-year fluctuations. This is particularly important in group business, where results are cyclical and influenced by the timing and scale of major event bookings. In periods of variability, performance will be assessed based on the strength of the forward booking pipeline, the quality and scale of events secured, and the organization's ability to generate demand within existing infrastructure constraints.

Achievement across the Board-identified indicators will be measured as follows:

Hotel performance metrics improve (demand, occupancy, ADR, RevPAR):
Achievement in group business will be measured through long-term trends and overall performance relative to historical benchmarks and market conditions, rather than year-to-year fluctuations. Given the cyclical and event-driven nature of group sales, individual years may vary significantly based on the timing and scale of major bookings.

In periods where results fluctuate year-over-year, achievement will be determined by the strength of the forward booking pipeline, the quality and scale of events secured, and the organization's ability to generate demand within existing infrastructure constraints.

Visitor Spending Grows (Economic Impact of Total Travel):
Success is demonstrated through sustained growth in total visitor spending, with emphasis on year-over-year increases and performance relative to the competitive set.

Hotel Performance Metrics Improve (Demand, Occupancy, ADR, RevPAR):
Success is measured through improvement in key hotel performance indicators, with primary emphasis on demand, revenue, and RevPAR as the most comprehensive measures of market performance. Growth in these areas demonstrates increased visitation and economic impact, while recognizing that occupancy may be influenced by changes in room supply. Performance will be evaluated relative to historical benchmarks and competing markets.

Hotel Tax and Food & Beverage Tax Revenues Grow:
Success is demonstrated by increasing tax revenues generated from visitor activity, reflecting overall growth in economic impact. Evaluation will focus on sustained upward trends, while acknowledging that external factors such as inflation may influence results.

Attractions and Event Attendance Increase:
Success is measured by growth in attendance at attractions, events, and festivals, as well as the ability to attract both new and repeat visitors. Strong performance is reflected in increased participation and the continued expansion and diversification of the region's event portfolio, recognizing that individual events may fluctuate year-to-year.

Although macroeconomic factors influencing travel are outside of our control, GoRockford is responsible for effectively deploying resources to drive growth in targeted visitor segments and the overall tourism economy. Success, therefore, includes the ability to identify trends, adapt strategies, and outperform competing destinations.

During periods of industry-wide decline, success is defined as performance that exceeds or declines less than that of comparable markets, consistent with the Board's expectation that the Rockford Region remains competitive under varying economic conditions.

REPORT:
Tourism Expenditures in Winnebago County 2017-2024
The numbers below are reported by the State of Illinois and Tourism Economics, released September 2025 by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism. *This is the latest full-year date available.*

Visitor Spending in Winnebago County			
	Total Expenditures (Millions)	**$ Change**	**% Change**
2024	$523.4	+ 8 m	+1.5%
2023	$515.4	+6.9 m	+1.3%
2022	$508.5 m	+72.1 m	+16.5%
2021	$436.4 m	+77.9 m	+21.7%
2020	$358.5 m	-124.7 m	-25.81%
2019	$483.2 m	+$18.3 m	+3.94%
2018	$464.9 m	+$18.3 m	+4.05%
2017	$452 m	+$12.9 m	+3.08%

12 Large County Comparable Markets 2019 vs. 2024 Economic Impact					
County	**2019** $ millions	**2023** $ millions	**2024** $ millions	**% change 24 to 23**	**% change 24 to 19**
Champaign County, Illinois	$513.9	$583.9	$554.7	-5.00%	7.90%
Cook County, Illinois	$30,624.9	$30,636.4	$32,069.8	4.70%	4.70%
DuPage County, Illinois	$3,260.6	$3,181.4	$3,203.2	0.7%	-1.76%
Kane County, Illinois	$656.5	$658.6	$674.5	2.40%	2.70%
Lake County, Illinois	$1,783.3	$1,928.6	$1,961.3	1.70%	10.00%
McLean County, Illinois	$473.5	$573.5	$519.1	-9.50%	9.60%
Madison County, Illinois	$475.4	$515.9	$510.3	-1.10%	7.30%
Peoria County, Illinois	$411.4	$401.4	$397.4	-1.00%	-3.40%
Rock Island County, Illinois	$294.8	$326.9	$323.2	-1.10%	9.60%
St. Clair County, Illinois	$555.5	$649.5	$649.9	0.10%	17.00%
Sangamon County, Illinois	$508.0	$601.3	$596.7	-0.80%	17.50%
Will County, Illinois	$880.7	$1,037.7	$1,054.3	1.60%	19.70%
Winnebago County, Illinois	$483.2	$515.4	$523.4	1.3%	8.3%
Set Averages	-	-	-	-0.44%	**8.4%**

Market Share in Illinois
After holding steady for more than a decade, Winnebago County's share of Illinois tourism spending shot up during 2020 (as our pandemic decline was not as severe as others and driven primarily by Cook County's massive decline), decreasing slightly in 2021 and normalizing since.

- 2019 – 1.03%
- 2020 – 1.49%
- 2021 – 1.35%
- 2022 – 1.15%
- 2023 – 1.1%
- 2024 – 1.1%

Industry Employment, Income and Local Tax Receipts					
	2019	**2023**	**2024**	**% Change** (23 vs. 2022)	**% Change** (24 vs. 2019)
# of Jobs	4,147	4,654	4,687	+ 0.7%	+13%
Labor Income	$135.3 m	$165.1 m	$167.8 m	+ 1.6%	+24%
Local Tax Receipts	$11.4 m	$14.2 m	$14.7 m	+3.5%	+28.9%

Economic Impact Analysis:
Prior to the pandemic, in 2019, travel generated $483.2 million in economic impact for Rockford and Winnebago County and supported 4,147 jobs. At that time, visitor spending reached an all-time high, capping more than a decade of consecutive growth that outpaced nearly all comparable Illinois counties outside of Cook County.

As a result of the pandemic, total expenditures declined to $358.5 million in 2020, a -25.8% decrease from 2019. However, recovery was swift. Visitor spending rebounded significantly in 2021 and exceeded pre-pandemic levels by 2022. This upward trajectory has continued, reaching $523.4 million in 2024, representing: +1.5% growth over 2023, and +8.3% growth over 2019

While recent growth has moderated compared to the immediate post-pandemic rebound years, Winnebago County continues to demonstrate steady, positive momentum.

From a competitive standpoint, 2024 performance reinforces the region's relative strength. The 12-county comparison set experienced an average decline of -0.44% from 2023 to 2024, while Winnebago County grew +1.3%, outperforming most peer counties. A majority of comparable markets, including Champaign, McLean, Madison, Peoria, Rock Island, and Sangamon, experienced flat or negative growth in 2024. Only a handful of counties posted modest gains.

Tourism continues to be a major driver of local economic impact. In 2024:
- Employment reached **4,687 jobs** (**+13% vs. 2019**)
- Labor income grew to **$167.8 million** (**+24% vs. 2019**)
- Local tax receipts increased to **$14.7 million** (**+28.9% vs. 2019**)

Year-over-year growth in 2024 remained positive across all three categories, with increases of +0.7% in jobs, +1.6% in labor income, and +3.5% in local tax receipts, further reinforcing the continued expansion of the tourism economy.

Winnebago County's performance continues to be driven by a diversified tourism base, including sports tourism, leisure travel, and corporate visitation. This diversification allowed the region to recover more quickly than many urban markets during the pandemic and has continued to provide stability in the post-pandemic period.

However, the data also reinforces a structural limitation identified in prior reports: the lack of a large-scale convention and meeting facility. While the region performs well in sports and leisure segments, this limitation constrains the ability to drive higher occupancy levels and attract large-scale group business, particularly during non-peak periods.

Winnebago County/Rockford Hotel Performance 2025 vs. 2019

Demand, Occupancy, Average Daily Rate, Revenue Per Available Room
Source: Smith Travel Research

	2019	2023	2024	2025	% Change (24 vs. 25)	% Change (25 vs. 19)
Demand/Rooms Sold	600,268	601,483	619,694	645,563	+4.2%	+7.5%
Average Daily Rate	$91.79	$100.76	103.45	107.05	+3.5%	+16.6%
Revenue	$55,100,068	$60,604,977	64,110,060	69,108,611	+7.8%	+25.4%
Occupancy	65.3%	58.4%	59.9	60.3	+0.7	-7.7%
Supply/# of rooms	2,600	2,870	2,944	2,922	-0.7%	+12.4%
RevPar	$58.06	$58.82	$62.01	$64.50	+4%	+11.1

Hotel Tax Generation*
Source: Smith Travel Research

	2019	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 vs. 25	% Change (25 vs. 19)
Tax	$550,100	$606,040	$641,006	691,086	+7.8%	+25.6%

* For simplicity, calculated using a base rate of a 1% tax based on revenue reported to Smith Travel Research. Total tax rate for a guest room in Winnebago County ranges from 13% to 14%.

Hotel Performance Analysis: Hotel performance data indicates that the Rockford market has fully recovered and surpassed pre-pandemic levels in key revenue metrics, while occupancy continues to lag due to increased supply.

From 2019 to 2025, hotel demand (rooms sold) increased +7.5%, reflecting continued growth in visitation. However, during the same period, hotel room supply grew at a faster rate (+12.4%), resulting in occupancy levels that remain below pre-pandemic benchmarks (-7.7% vs. 2019), despite a modest year-over-year improvement in 2025 (+0.7 points).

Despite this imbalance between supply and demand, hotel financial performance has strengthened:

- **ADR** increased +16.6% vs. 2019
- **RevPAR** increased +11.1%
- **Total hotel revenue** increased +25.4%
- **Estimated hotel tax generation** increased +25.6%

Recent year-over-year performance (2025 vs. 2024) further demonstrates continued positive momentum:

- **Demand increased** +4.2%
- **ADR increased** +3.5%
- **RevPAR increased** +4.0%
- **Revenue increased** +7.8%
- **Hotel tax generation increased** +7.8%

These trends indicate that growth in the Rockford lodging market is being driven primarily by higher room rates and increased visitor spending, rather than occupancy gains. RevPAR, the industry's primary performance metric, shows that Rockford's lodging market has surpassed pre-pandemic performance, with both demand and revenue per room increasing, even as occupancy remains below 2019 due to expanded supply.

Group Sales Room Nights Booked, Attendee Count: FY19 – FY25

	FY19	FY20	FY24	FY25	% change 24 to 25	% change 19 to 25
Room Night Bookings	95,772	59,451	88,420	75,498	-14.6%	-21.2%
Attendee Count	314,330	205,821	225,682	230,770	+2.3%	-26.6%

Bookings Analysis:
While group business activity has not yet returned to FY19 levels, performance remains significantly improved over pandemic lows and continues to demonstrate underlying demand.

Following a strong rebound in FY24, driven by major event bookings, FY25 room night bookings declined by 14.6%, reflecting a normalization from an unusually high prior year. However, attendee counts increased by 2.3% in FY25, indicating continued strength in overall visitation and event participation.

Compared to FY19, room night bookings are down 21.2%, and attendee counts are down 26.6%, reinforcing that the group meetings and conventions segment has not fully recovered. Additionally, due to budgetary constraints, our sales team continues to operate with 2 FTE sales executives, down from 3 prior to the pandemic.

FY24 performance should be considered an outlier year, as it included several significant bookings, including multi-year agreements for events such as IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford and the Jehovah's Witness Convention, which together will generate substantial future room nights and attendance.

The data reflects steady recovery and strong demand for events, but also highlights the variability of group business and the region's continued limitation in attracting consistent, large-scale meetings and conventions. Sustained growth in this segment will depend on the ability to secure additional demand drivers and expand capacity for larger events.

Conclusions
Tourism in Winnebago County continues to demonstrate positive year-over-year growth and strong competitive performance, with the region outperforming its peer set even as many comparable markets are flat or declining.

This momentum is reflected in both visitor spending and hotel performance, where growth in demand and revenue-based metrics, particularly RevPAR and total revenue, indicates increasing economic impact. While occupancy remains below prior peak levels due to increased supply, overall market performance remains strong.

The data also highlights a continued opportunity: demand growth has not yet kept pace with expanded hotel supply, reinforcing the importance of developing additional demand drivers, particularly in the meetings and conventions segment.

Consistent with the Board-approved CEO interpretation, and based on sustained growth and performance relative to the competitive set, **I am reporting achievement of Policy 1.1 – Create Economic Growth.**

Governing Policy of the GoRockford Board of Directors

Executive Limitations Policy 2.2 – Treatment of Staff ***Management Limitations***

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Ends Policies
Monitoring on Policy 2.2 – Treatment of Staff

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Executive Limitations Policy 2.2, Treatment of Staff, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true.

Signed,

John Groh, President/CEO   March 19, 2026

POLICY 2.2: With respect to the treatment of volunteers and employees, the President/CEO will not cause or allow conditions that are unfair, unsafe or undignified.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report) I interpret this to mean each volunteer and employee has a right to a fair, safe, and dignified work environment, and the President/CEO must ensure the GoRockford has the policies and procedures in place to safeguard those rights.

I define fair as meaning that staff is treated equally, being held to the same codes of conduct and expectations. Further it means each job has a description fitting and appropriate to that position, each staff member knows the responsibilities of their job, what is expected of them and whether they are meeting those expectations. I believe "safe" to mean the building and environment is appropriately maintained, any safety concerns are immediately addressed, and each staff member and/or volunteer is able to effectively do their job without risking personal harm or injury. I define "dignified" as meaning each person's innate right to respectful and ethical treatment.

REPORT: GoRockford operates within the boundaries dictated by our personnel policies; corporate priority expectations; corporate leadership and team performance expectations; building and equipment maintenance standards; organizational values and customer service standards. These key guidelines and documents provide a framework to ensure working conditions are fair, safe and dignified.

Evidence of the fairness and dignity expectations is outlined in my reporting on the subsequent provisions below.

I am reporting compliance.

Further, pertaining to employees, the President/CEO will not:

2.2.1 "Operate without ensuring employees are provided with written personnel policies, reviewed by legal counsel, which clarify personnel rules for staff, and provide for effective handling of complaints/grievances."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report**)** I interpret this to mean GoRockford has an employee handbook, reviewed by legal counsel, that outlines the expectations for employees, sets the rules of conduct, and provides an avenue for dispute resolutions should an employee believe their rights or company policies have been violated, as well as bringing to the attention of management, or ultimately the Board of Directors, grievances or concerns about conduct observed that is in violation of any governing policy of the Board or the organization. Policies must guide actions in a way to preclude or address "wrongful conditions," and would include those that are unlawful, unjust or unfair.

REPORT: GoRockford has a comprehensive set of personnel policies that outline employee expectations, defines the corporate culture, sets the rules of conduct, outlines standard office procedures and provides an avenue for addressing grievances. The policies (known internally as our employee handbook) underwent a comprehensive review in April 2023, led by the President/CEO, with our HR advisor, Furst Staffing, and employment attorney, Jim Pirages of AGHL Law, to update the handbook based on new state and federal laws and GoRockford practices. Additional updates were made in December 2025.

Further, all staff last received and acknowledged receipt of the handbook in January 2025, or upon their hire if more recent. A copy of the Employee Handbook is available for Board members' review upon request. The handbook is currently under review for updates necessary since December 2024.

I am reporting compliance.

2.2.2 "Allow staff to be unaware of these governing policies."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report) I am to ensure each employee is made aware of the governing policies and has access to them.

REPORT: All staff members receive a copy of the Board's Governing Policies during their new-employee orientation. Policies are also available on GoRockford's internal computer network. Each new employee participates in an orientation program that outlines the personnel handbook and board policies. At the time of hire and annually thereafter, staff members are required to sign an acknowledgment that they have received and read the Board Governing Policies.

All staff members were requested to review the Board Governing Policies in March 2026 and have completed the acknowledgement form; no staff members have been hired since that time.

I am reporting compliance.

2.2.3 "As it pertains to the composition of employees and volunteers, engage in hiring practices that neglect to consider the importance of reflecting the population we serve."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report) When recruiting and hiring staff or recruiting volunteers, I am to consider the importance of reflecting the population of Winnebago County. As such, reflecting the diversity of our residents is an important consideration when developing our team. In this regard, I consider diversity to include gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, physical ability, age and educational background. Accordingly, to attain diversity in staffing and volunteers, our recruitment efforts should ensure we are reaching a broad and diverse potential pool of applicants.

REPORT: In the past year, we have hired one staff member. The importance of reflecting the community we serve has been, and will continue to be, considered when recruiting for open positions.

This is accomplished by sharing open position postings in the following ways, among others: on GoRockford social media channels including Facebook and LinkedIn, as needed based on the role on multiple job boards (including Indeed, Google Jobs, ZipRecruiter, Juju, Glassdoor, LinkedIn), on GoRockford.com, and by sharing the posting directly with GoRockford staff, board members, partners and community members who can help circulate the job opportunity within their networks.

I am reporting compliance.

2.2.4 Retaliate or allow retaliation against an employee for non-disruptive, internal expression of dissent, or for reporting to management or to the Board of Directors (per the process for handling of grievances in the personnel policies) acts or omissions by GoRockford personnel, management or the Board of Directors that the employee believes, in good faith and based on credible information, constitutes a violation of state or federal law or a governing policy of the Board.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report) I interpret this to mean the President/CEO must *ensure* an atmosphere in which staff is permitted to disagree with prevailing opinions, decisions or policies, provided the disagreements are not aired publicly and do not interfere with their productivity or functional ability of other employees or the organization. Further, an employee must be free to utilize the grievance procedures in place without fear of retribution, provided they truly believe a violation of policy or law has occurred.

REPORT: No grievances have been filed with the CEO, management, or the Board of Directors since the last report on March 19, 2025.

I am reporting compliance.

A. **Employees may not be prevented from grieving to the board when (1) internal grievance procedures outlined in the personnel policies have been exhausted and (2) the employee alleges in good faith and based on credible information that a violation of state or federal law or a governing policy of the Board has been violated.**

CEO INTERPRETATION: The Employee Handbook must convey that no one may interfere with an employee's right to take their grievance to the Board if the employee has been unable to reach a resolution after properly utilizing the internal channels available and the complainant believes the violation is in direct conflict with board policy or a state or federal law.

While this policy provides employees the opportunity to elevate a grievance to the Board under those specific circumstances, I interpret it as also affirming that the Board will support my personnel-related decisions, as long as consistent with Board policy.

REPORT: The grievance process is outlined in the Employee Handbook, and employees are provided a copy of this Board Policy 2.2. These policies are explained during new hire orientation.

In addition to the grievance/complaint process in the Employee Handbook, which details the process by which an employee addresses a complaint involving the President/CEO, the Handbook also includes additional guidance under a section titled "Reporting Fraud, Waste, Theft or Misuse of Funds Policy". This policy details the process an employee should follow when/if they have a concern with the CEO, which was not resolved by the CEO. The policy language is as follows:

> If an employee or board member encounters or becomes aware of any suspected financial misconduct or fraudulent financial activities, the first report should be to the President/CEO of the Bureau. If the report is about the President/CEO or the President/CEO is unavailable, the first report should be directed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

As there have been no grievances filed in this reporting period, no employee grievances rose to the level of requiring an employee to address the Board of Directors.

I am reporting compliance.

2.2.5 Allow staff to be unprepared to deal with reasonably foreseeable emergency situations.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report) I interpret this to mean the President/CEO must ensure staff is properly trained and prepared to deal with potential emergency and life-threatening scenarios.

I interpret "reasonably foreseeable emergency situations" to include on-site injuries; weather events (e.g., fire, flood, tornado, etc.); intruders entering the office; and interruptions to power, telephone or computer access, and, of course, major disruptions at GoRockford-sponsored public events. Such plans also must include chain of authority and clarity as to who is authorized to speak on behalf of the organization.

REPORT: The employee handbook directly addresses workplace injuries, weather-related emergency procedures, sexual harassment, violence, and weapons in the workplace. Additionally, events such as Stroll on State and Dasher Dash, as well as large client events, have public safety/security plans developed with local public safety officials; these plans are shared with staff and volunteers.

In addition to this, employees receive a copy of the Crisis Communication and Business Continuity Plan upon hire and annually thereafter. The plan details topics including bomb threat/fire/explosion at GoRockford office, accident or death at GoRockford office, allegations of criminal or inappropriate action by staff/board, accident at sports event or convention at a hotel, civil disorder at Stroll on State and hackers on website. The plan was last updated in October 2024 and distributed to all staff.

I am reporting compliance.

2.2.6 Allow staff to be uninformed about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and communities we serve.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No change since last report) I am to ensure all staff are informed of the benefits of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and our communities. Such benefits include the presence of multiple perspectives, the possibility for increased innovation and a wider talent pool to draw from. For purposes of this policy, I define diversity to include the presence of people of different genders, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, religions, ages, experiences, and educational backgrounds. Inclusion is defined, for these purposes, as meaning all people are welcomed and have the right to be respected and appreciated as a valuable member of our team and community. Further, informing the staff of the importance of diversity and inclusion might be accomplished in various ways, including but not limited to formal training sessions, staff discussions, distribution of relevant learning materials, etc.

REPORT: GoRockford ensures staff are informed about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and the communities we serve through ongoing staff development and team culture initiatives.

Our commitment is grounded in the GoRockford Commitments to Our Diverse Community, adopted by the Board in September 2020, which continue to guide our organizational values and approach to our work.

In practice, staff engagement around diversity and inclusion is incorporated into team culture training and workshops. In 2025, GoRockford staff participated in multiple facilitated sessions with Fired Up! Culture, including in January, April, and most recently December 2025. These sessions included discussions and exercises focused on:

- Understanding and valuing differences among team members
- How individuals contribute differently within a team environment
- Building a culture of respect, collaboration, and inclusion

These conversations are practical and directly tied to how staff work together as a team, reinforcing the importance of recognizing and valuing diverse perspectives and experiences.

Through these ongoing efforts, staff are informed about and expected to demonstrate the importance of diversity and inclusion in both internal culture and external engagement.

I am reporting compliance.

Prepared by: Leah Ticknor/John Groh 03/19/26

GOROCKFORD
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Final Round of Restaurant Relief Grant Distributes $427,000 to Local Restaurants

Total Program Investment Reaches $1.4 Million

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 2026

ROCKFORD, IL — GoRockford announced an additional $427,631.17 in state funding awarded to area restaurants in the fifth and final round of its Restaurant Relief Grant Program, helping businesses continue to recover from elevated unemployment insurance taxes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 34 businesses received grant funding in February, bringing the total to 53 restaurants that received a share of $1.4 million across five grant cycles. The program was funded through an appropriation secured by Illinois State Representative Maurice West.

“Restaurants are foundational to Rockford’s visitor economy and overall business climate,” ***said John Groh, President/CEO of GoRockford.*** “When our hospitality sector is financially stable, it strengthens tourism, supports workforce retention, and reinforces our reputation as a welcoming destination. This final round helps ensure these establishments remain strong contributors to the region’s economic momentum.”

The Restaurant Relief Grant Program was created to address the lasting financial impact of COVID-19 on the local restaurant industry. Restaurants experienced significant increases in unemployment insurance costs that persisted well beyond state-mandated shutdowns. The program provided direct financial relief to stabilize operations, protect jobs, and preserve locally owned establishments that serve as economic and cultural anchors throughout Winnebago County.

“Rockford’s restaurants, bars, and coffee shops are more than just businesses; they are at the core of what makes our community great,” said ***Illinois State Representative Maurice West***. “I am proud to have seen these grants go directly to our local establishments, where they have helped them recover and flourish. Investing in these small businesses means investing in jobs, in our community’s culture, and in the future of Rockford.”

Restaurant Owners Share the Program’s Impact:

- “The Norwegian would not be open today without the Restaurant Grant. Words could never express the gratitude I have for the hard work of Maurice West and GoRockford,” ***Emily Hurd, owner, The Norwegian.***

- “We are incredibly grateful to Representative West and GoRockford for this Restaurant Relief Grant, funded by the State of Illinois. The support has made a meaningful impact on Franchesco’s, allowing us to reinvest in our team, continue serving our guests at the highest level, and remain a strong part of the Rockford community. We are proud to call this city home and thankful for leaders who support local restaurants,” said ***Benny Salamone, owner, Franchesco’s Restaurante.***

—MORE—

- "COVID was a hard time for all small business owners. Unfortunately, for many restaurants, putting it in the rear-view mirror was tough, since we had to pay for it through our payroll taxes for years after. This fund, fought for by Rep West and facilitated by GoRockford, has been very helpful as we've tried to close that chapter," ***said Joshua Binning, owner, Lucha Cantina.***

- "The grant has been a huge lifeline for us, especially for the past two rough years. It definitely helped us get through tough times. We appreciate the hustle and the effort put forth by Rep. Maurice West and the GoRockford team. It's great to know that there are people who see the impact and importance of unique restaurants like ours and our peers," ***said Patrick Alberto, owner/chef, 27 Aluna.***

Across the program's five rounds, beginning in 2024, the following restaurants received grants:

27 Aluna @ Octane
Abreo Restaurant
Alchemy at Aldeen
Alpine View Restaurant
Carlyle Brewing
Casey's Pub
Culver's of Winnebago
District Bar & Grill
Don Carter Lanes
Dusty Boots Saloon
Famous Dave's Rockford
Forest Hills Lanes
Franchesco's Ristorante
Golden Corral
Greenfire Restaurant
Hoffman House
Hope & Anchor English Pub
J. W. Marc's Fusion Café
Joe's Casa Di Amici
John's Restaurant
Johnny Pamcakes
Johnny Pamcakes Too
LimaMar Restaurant
Lucha Cantina
Machine Shed
Mary's Market
Mulligan's of Rockford
Murphy's Pub & Grill
Olivo Taco
Onyx Bar & Grill
Oscar's Pub & Grill
Park Lanes
Pig Minds
Pizza Ranch
Prairie Street Brewhouse
Rookie's Pub & Grill
Rusty Nail Tavern
Scanlan's
Spider Sushi
Stockholm Inn
Stockyard Rock Burger Bar
Tad's Bar & Grill
Tavern on Clark
Thai Hut Restaurant
The Cherry Bowl
The Filling Station
The Norwegian
The Olympic Tavern
The Pomodoro
Thunderbay Grill
Tower Kitchen & Bar
Viking Lanes
Vintage @501/Taco Libre

Businesses received varying grant amounts depending on the impact of COVID-19 on their unemployment tax rates.

—MORE—

Administered by GoRockford and secured by Illinois State Representative Maurice West, the grants were awarded to eligible businesses in Winnebago County through an application process and professional review panel. The program was designed to mitigate the financial strain on restaurants caused by required unemployment tax payments resulting from employee layoffs during state-mandated shutdowns. Recipients were selected based on demonstrated eligibility, and all eligible applicants that met the program's criteria received grants.

For additional information about the Restaurant Relief Grant Program, please visit GoRockford.com/Restaurant-Grant.

GoRockford is the official destination marketing and management organization for Rockford and Winnebago County, responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, GoRockford strengthens the region's economic position and provides opportunities for people in our communities. www.gorockford.com

State Representative Maurice West is serving his third term representing the 67th House District in the Rockford region. A Rockford native, Rep. West serves as Assistant Floor Whip in the 103rd General Assembly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & MEDIA INQUIRIES:
Devin Mainville, devin@kmkmedia.com; 779.221.3764

IHSA Selects Rockford to Host Boys Soccer State Finals

Guilford High School's Swanson Stadium to Host Tournament

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2026

ROCKFORD, IL — GoRockford and the Rockford Public Schools District 205 and Guilford High School are pleased to announce that Rockford has been selected to host the **Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Boys Soccer State Finals** for the next three years. The prestigious championship event will welcome the state's top 12 teams, their coaches, and their fans to Rockford each November for the next three years.

The championship tournament will be held at **Swanson Stadium** at **Guilford High School** (5620 Spring Creek Rd., Rockford) and will feature the top teams from across Illinois in three classifications, with four from each class (1A, 2A, and 3A) competing for state titles.

"Rockford Public Schools is excited about Guilford's partnership with GoRockford to host IHSA's Boys State Soccer Finals," **said Dawn Williamson, RPS 205 director of athletics, activities and program development.** "I look forward to seeing elementary, middle, and high school students able to watch some great soccer with their families at one of our awesome high schools. A big thank you to the IHSA for this opportunity. Rockford is ready to exceed expectations!"

"We are thrilled to bring another IHSA championship event to Rockford," said **Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford vice president of sales & service**. "Hosting the IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals strengthens Rockford's reputation as a premier sports tourism destination and reflects the continued confidence organizations have in our community's ability to deliver an outstanding championship experience. We're excited to welcome athletes and fans from across Illinois to experience Rockford's hospitality and energy."

"We are excited to partner with Guilford High School, Rockford Public Schools District 205, and GoRockford to bring the IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals to Rockford," **said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson.** "This tournament has a storied history and we are excited for its next chapter in Rockford, which has a proven track record of putting on first-class IHSA State Final events."

Impact: The three-year agreement is estimated to generate $297,000 in annual visitor spending and economic impact, totaling nearly $900,000 for the Rockford region over the term of the agreement. The selection further places Rockford in a select group of communities trusted to host IHSA championships.

Rockford also hosts the IHSA Girls Bowling State Finals, held each February, making the soccer finals the second IHSA state finals to call Rockford home. Rockford has long been a strong soccer community, with tournaments such as the Puri Cup, bringing thousands of players to the Rockford region each year. Together, these events highlight Rockford's growing momentum as a trusted host for championship events and reinforce the region's commitment to youth and amateur sports.

-MORE-

"We are thrilled to be chosen to host the IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals for the next three years," **said City of Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara.** "This is an exciting moment for Rockford, as our city becomes the home for Illinois' top student-athletes to compete on the state's premier high school soccer stage. It's a tremendous opportunity to highlight our commitment to youth sports and to share the pride, energy and vibrancy of Rockford with the entire state."

GoRockford partnered with Rockford Public Schools and Guilford High School throughout the bid process, working together to bring the IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals to Rockford.

"Guilford is happy to partner with GoRockford on hosting the IHSA state series for boys' soccer," **said Gus Carter, Guilford High School principal.** "We are certain that we can provide a top-notch experience for the competing schools and are excited to bring this talent to Rockford for our community to enjoy."

The IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals schedule will include 14 games played over three days each year:

- Thursday: two games – Class 1A Semifinals
- Friday: seven games – Class 1A Third Place Game, Class 2A Semifinals, and Class 3A Semifinals
- Saturday: five games – Class 2A and 3A Third Place Games, plus the Class 1A, 2A, and 3A State Championship matches

The tournament dates for the three-year agreement are:

- November 5-7, 2026
- November 4-6, 2027
- November 2-4, 2028

Last year's IHSA Boys Soccer State Finals were held at Hoffman Estates High School. Additional details about the event, ticket information, and schedules will be announced closer to each finals weekend.

About: GoRockford is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, GoRockford strengthens the region's economic position and provides opportunities for people in our communities. www.gorockford.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford Vice President of Sales & Service, 815.489.1664, larellano@gorockford.com

AAU Grand Prix Rockin' Rockford Returns

Volleyball Tournament Expected to Bring $911,347 to the region

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: March 6, 2026

What: GoRockford and Rockford Park District are pleased to welcome back the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Progressive Volleyball Events for **AAU Grand Prix Club Volleyball Rockin' Rockford** tournament**.** Over **341 teams** are competing in this event. Female teams range in age from 10 to 18 and male teams are ages 13 to 14. Teams, players, coaches and spectators will bring over **10,000 visitors** to the Rockford region. The tournament's estimated economic impact is **$911,347.**

The tournament has reached its largest size to date, and will bring over **5,400 room nights**. Due to the increase in attendees, this will be held at both UW Health Sports Factory and Mercyhealth Sportscore Two.

"We are incredibly proud to see Rockin' Rockford continue to grow, attracting more top-tier volleyball teams each year," said **Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford Vice President of Sales & Service**. "This expansion is a testament to the tournament's success, and we're thrilled that it now requires two locations to accommodate the increasing competition. We look forward to welcoming athletes, coaches, and fans to Rockford for an exciting weekend of volleyball and appreciate the dedication of our tournament organizers, venues, and community partners who make this event possible."

When: Saturday, March 7 – Sunday, March 8

Where: UW Health Sports Factory (courts 1-16) 305 S Madison St, Rockford Il 61104
Mercyhealth Sportscore Two (courts 17-43), 8800 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL 61111

Why: This is the ninth time Rockford has hosted Rockin' Rockford, and it's growing to be one of the largest girls AAU Grand Prix events in the Midwest.

"This event is a great opportunity to highlight the strength of our Rockford Park District facilities while creating a memorable experience for every athlete and visitor," said **Milton Phillips**, UW Health Sports Factory Supervisor.

"We are excited to welcome these athletes to the facility and provide an outstanding experience," said **Louis Mateus**, General Manager of Mercyhealth Sportscore Complexes. "Hosting the largest volleyball tournament in our area's history not only elevates the level of competition but also generates significant economic and community impact."

-MORE-

Other: Spectator passes are $15 per day or $30 for both days

Contact: Justin Basovsky, footin86@comcast.net , 847.553.5297, rockinrockford.com

About: GoRockford is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, GoRockford strengthens the economic position of the region and provides opportunities for people in our communities. www.gorockford.com

About: The Rockford Park District manages over 170 parks and facilities across more than 4,900 acres and serves over 11.5 million user visits annually. The Rockford Park District improves the quality of life for citizens by providing a vibrant, inclusive, and relevant park system which increases property values, stimulates economic development, creates economic impact, increases positive outcomes for youth, and improves our community's health. A vibrant and relevant park system also protects the environment, employs hundreds of area teens, and brings our diverse community together in unity, through the common love of play. www.rockfordparkdistrict.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford Vice President of Sales and Service, 815.489.1664,larellano@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District Communications Manager, 815-298-5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

GOROCKFORD QUARTERLY REPORT

FY26, Q4
April - June, 2026

GoRockford
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

The mission of GoRockford is to drive quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development.

gorockford.com

Destination Marketing Accreditation Program — Accredited Organization

Illinois Destinations Association — State Certified Bureau 2026

GoRockford Mission Statement

GoRockford drives quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development.

PRIORITY RESULTS

CREATE ECONOMIC WEALTH
The Rockford Region experiences growth in tourism's leading indicators at a rate greater than our competitive set.

ENHANCE TOURISM PRODUCT
The Rockford Region offers unique and marketable experiences and venues that meet or exceed visitor expectations and enhance the quality of life for residents.

ENGAGE CONSTITUENTS ON BEHALF OF TOURISM
GoRockford tourism marketing, sales, and destination development efforts have broad support among key stakeholders.

ELEVATE THE BRAND
The Rockford Region's brand is clearly defined and positively perceived, supporting the region's competitiveness as a destination and place to live.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

As we close the end of the fiscal year, the Rockford region continues to build momentum through strong partnerships, and experiences that attract visitors while enhancing quality of life for our residents. This quarter showcased the strength of our tourism industry through major events, national media exposure, destination development, and record-breaking marketing efforts.

IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford once again demonstrated the power of sports tourism, welcoming more than **2,200 athletes** and generating an estimated **$7 million** in economic impact. Our sales team also secured **22,380 future hotel room nights** during the quarter, positioning Rockford for continued economic growth through future sporting events and tournaments.

Our marketing efforts reached new audiences on both the national and digital stage. Rockford earned coverage in **Forbes**, the **TODAY Show**, and **Midwest Living**, and generated more than **8 million social media views** during the quarter. We also launched the redesigned **Made for Rockford** website, creating a comprehensive relocation resource for prospective residents and generating more than **80 relocation kit requests** in its first month.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch **RockYard Music Fest**, a new signature event that supports the vision of **Thrive 2035** by creating new destination experiences, activating public spaces, and strengthening downtown Rockford. Along with continued investments in destination development and community partnerships, these efforts ensure Rockford remains a vibrant place to visit, live, and invest.

Thank you to our board, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for making this momentum possible. Together, we continue to build a stronger future for the Rockford region.

Be well,

John Groh
GoRockford President/CEO

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GoROCKFORD NEWS

IRONMAN 70.3 ROCKFORD ELEVATES ROCKFORD'S SPORTS TOURISM

IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford athletes run along Rock River Recreation Path on June 14, 2026.

IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford returned to the Rockford region on **June 14**, welcoming **2,268 athletes** and approximately **7,500 spectators** from **30 states** and **19 countries**. The internationally recognized triathlon once again showcased the Rock River and region, while reinforcing Rockford's reputation as a premier destination for sporting events. The event generated an estimated **$7 million in economic impact**, benefiting hotels, restaurants, retailers, attractions, and other local businesses throughout race weekend.

IRONMAN 70.3 ROCKFORD ILLINOIS

Athlete by the Numbers

- 2268 registered athletes
- 95 athletes from Rockford area
- 41 international athletes
- 1229 from Illinois
- 253 from Wisconsin
- 105 from Indiana
- 79 from Minnesota
- 63 from Michigan
- 58 from Missouri
- 38 from Florida
- 34 from California
- 31 from Texas

GoRockford partnered with IRONMAN, City of Rockford, Rockford Police Department, Rockford Park District, volunteers, and other community organizations to deliver a successful event. More than **1,200 volunteers** filled nearly **1,550 volunteer shifts**, helping create a welcoming race experience while demonstrating the community collaboration that has become a signature of Rockford's major sporting events.

In addition to supporting race operations and destination marketing, GoRockford encouraged athletes and spectators to explore local businesses, restaurants, attractions, and entertainment throughout the weekend. The continued success of IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford strengthens the community's position as a nationally recognized sports tourism destination.

ROCKYARD ANNOUNCEMENT

GoRockford announced the launch of RockYard Music Fest at a May news conference. The new free, two-day music festival will debut in **Davis Park** on **August 14–15**.

Created as part of Rockford's America 250 celebration and in conjunction with Rockford 815 Day, the festival was developed to create a signature end-of-summer event that brings residents and visitors together while driving activity to downtown Rockford.

Local artist Emilio Salinas performs at the RockYard Music Fest news conference in May. Emilio is part of the RockYard music line up.

The inaugural festival will feature live music, food and beverage vendors, family activities, classic yard games, and community competitions. Friday night's festivities end with fireworks, and Saturday's end with a Rockford-themed drone show. Saturday morning kicks off with a ticketed pancake breakfast. RockYard will also serve as one of the first major public events to activate the newly renovated Davis Park, showcasing the riverfront as a premier gathering space and destination for festivals.

Presented by **Foresight Bank**, RockYard reflects GoRockford's commitment to advancing the goals of **Thrive 2035** by creating new destination experiences, activating public spaces, strengthening downtown, and enhancing quality of life. Through strong partnerships with sponsors, local businesses, artists, and community organizations, the festival is designed to become a signature annual event that grows tourism while creating lasting economic and community impact.

MAJOR NEWS COVERAGE ELEVATES ROCKFORD

GoRockford's public relations strategy continues to generate national media coverage by pitching compelling stories that showcase the Rockford region's unique attractions, tourism investments, and visitor experiences. During the second quarter, the region earned significant national attention through a **Forbes** feature highlighting the opening of **Hidden Creek Estates' Wine Barrel Homes**. The article positioned the accommodations as a luxurious Midwest getaway, showcasing the wine barrel homes, restaurant, and serene setting while introducing Rockford to travelers seeking unique overnight experiences.

Rockford also received national exposure on the **TODAY Show,** where Rockford was featured in a segment highlighting destinations inspired by iconic films. The story encouraged viewers to visit the home of the original **Rockford Peaches** and experience the legacy of ***A League of Their Own*** through the city's baseball history, attractions, and fan experiences and also showcased the upcoming Women's Baseball Week in Rockford in July. Women's Baseball Week includes three high profile events including the WBSC Women's World Cup Group Stage.

SALES EFFORTS & RESULTS

SPORTS AND MEETING SALES HIGHLIGHTS

Local fitness influencer Noah Anderson crosses the finish line during his second IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford in June.

NCTTA CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURNS

The **National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) Championships** were held **April 9–12** at the UW Health Sports Factory. The national event welcomed collegiate athletes and visitors from throughout the country. The event brought an estimated economic impact of **$467,401** to the region.

MIDWEST WOMEN RIDERS SETS WORLD RECORD IN ROCKFORD

Midwest Women Riders made history in Rockford **June 11–13** by hosting the **Get Your Groove On 2026** world record female ride, bringing **1,433 women motorcyclists** together in a successful world record-setting ride. The three-day event at **Hard Rock Casino Rockford** attracted riders from across the country for workshops and entertainment. With an estimated economic impact of **$936,233**, the event introduced a unique event to the region.

NATIONAL DOG SHOW MAKES ROCKFORD DEBUT

Rockford hosted the American Belgian Tervuren Club National Specialty for the first time **May 1–9**. The multi-day event brought over **$752,590 in economic impact**. More than **350 competitors** participated in events that included herding, scent work, agility, tracking, obedience, and junior showmanship.

USA BMX DRAWS THOUSANDS TO ROCKFORD

The **USA BMX Midwest Nationals** returned to **Searls Park June 19–21**, generating an estimated **$800,000** in economic impact for the Rockford region. The three-day event welcomed more than **3,500 athletes and fans**, representing over **100 teams** from across the United States while generating more than **2,700 hotel room nights**. Hosted in Rockford for more than **40 years**, the Midwest Nationals continue to showcase Searls Park as one of the nation's premier BMX facilities and reinforce Rockford's reputation as a leading sports tourism destination.

TRADE SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

In April, GoRockford's sales team attended the **Sports ETA Symposium** in Las Vegas, the premier conference and trade show for the sports tourism industry. During the event, the team conducted more than **30 appointments** with tournament directors, event owners, and industry partners to promote Rockford's sports facilities and event-hosting capabilities. The meetings introduced new event opportunities, and reinforced Rockford's position as a leading destination for sports tourism.

BOOKING HIGHLIGHTS

Team Illinois Lacrosse 2027
June & October 2027
5,000 Total Room nights
Estimated Economic Impact $2.8 million

Progressive Volleyball Events 2027
March & May 2027
3,600 room nights
Estimated Economic Impact $1.9 million

BMX Midwest Nationals
June 18-20, 2027
800 Room nights
Estimated Economic Impact $1.4 million

Forest City Classic
February 27-28, 2027
500 Room nights
Estimated Economic Impact $789,238

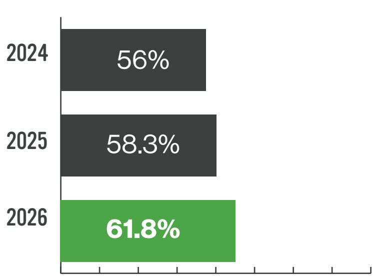
Windy City Invite
September 26-27, 2026
200 Room nights
Estimated Economic Impact $182,004

Future Hotel Room Nights Booked During the Quarter: 22,380 with an economic impact of $15.2 Million
Number of Bookings: 38


Midwest Women Riders line up for their world record ride on June 13, 2026 with 1,433 total female riders.

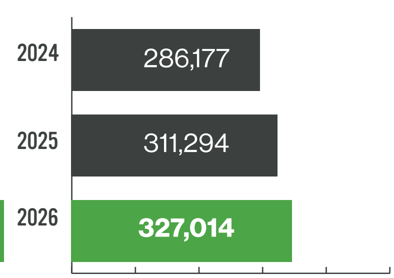
WINNEBAGO COUNTY HOTEL STATISTICS January - June, 2026

Year to Date Hotel Occupancy

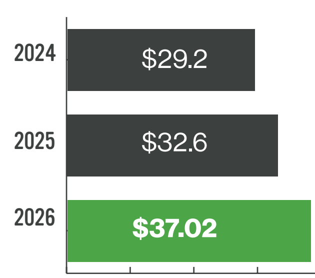


Year to Date Average Room Rate

Year to Date Room Demand
(rooms sold)



Year to Date Revenue
(in millions)



MARKETING

MEDIA MENTIONS & PLACEMENTS

GoRockford garners media mentions and placements to draw visitors to the Rockford region. Collaborating with regional and national media outlets, our team diligently seeks and shares captivating stories and compelling content centered experiences in Rockford, visiting the region and destination development.

The Today Show features Women's Baseball Week in Rockford during their "Summer Trips Inspired by Movies" segment in June 2026.

NATIONAL MEDIA MENTIONS

Forbes: ***"Enjoy The Serenity And Style At This Midwestern Getaway"*** (06/10/2026) 47,210,000 impressions and $1,746,770 Earned Media

TimeOut Magazine: ***"The 29 Most Unique Day Trips from Chicago"*** (04/09/2026) 9,063,000 Impressions and $335,331 Earned Media

TODAY ***"Summer Trips Inspired by Movies: 'Rocky,' 'Hidden Figures,' More"*** (06/23/2026) 7,870,000 Impressions and $291,190 Earned Media

Midwest Living: ***"20 Best Botanical Gardens and Arboretums for an Easy Afternoon Escape"*** (04/09/2026) 775,000 impressions and $28,675 Earned Media

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK
3.6 Million Views
66,136 Followers

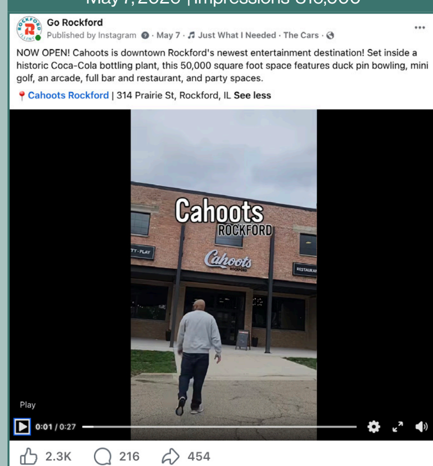
INSTAGRAM
1.8 Million Views
26,973 Followers

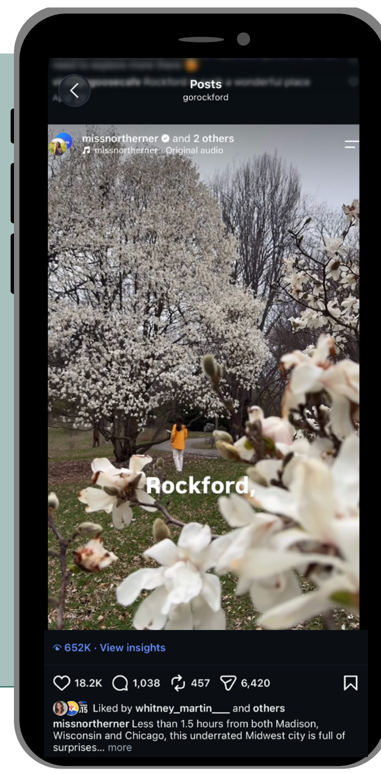
LINKEDIN
3,203 Followers

TikTok
2.6 Million Views
18,769 Followers

Top Facebook Post

May 7, 2026 | Impressions 316,000





EARNED MEDIA (April - June, 2026)

GoRockford works to attract visitors by directly pitching stories to media. Pitches are focused on economic development, tourism marketing and travel public relations.

$5,700,000
Ad equivalency

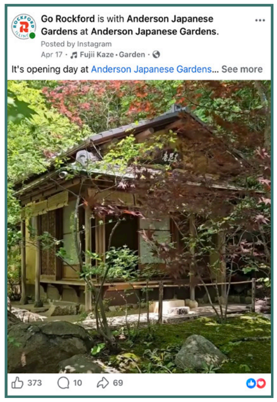
616,000,000
Total impressions

1,163
Number of mentions

MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTIONS

Each month of the quarter had a different focus, leading to impressive engagement.



APRIL

April's promotions were focused on spring attractions, seasonal openings and spring events. April also focused on gardens and what's blooming in Rockford. The top post for Facebook and Instagram in the quarter was in April, showcasing the opening of Cahoots, with **316,000 views**. April's promotions had **1.3 million total views** between Facebook and Instagram, an increase from **756,600 views** in April 2025.

MAY

May's promotional efforts continued promotion of spring events and highlights of summer travel in Rockford. Farmers markets including Rockford City Market and summer activities reopening in Rockford such as Food Truck Tuesdays, Dinner on the Dock, and live outdoor music were a major focus of May. May also included National Travel and Tourism Week (see sidebar). Viewers on Facebook and Instagram soared to **2 million**, up from **1.4 million** in May 2025.

JUNE

June's major focus was the return of IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford and promotional efforts leading up to America 250 Rockford celebrations. Summer things to do and major cultural festivals such as South Main Mercado and Juneteenth were also a focus. A posting for Midwest Riders world record ride also broke records for GoRockford's most viewed Tiktok video, with **1.5 million views** and over **83,720** in engagement. Total views for June between Facebook and Instagram was **2.5 million**, up from **2.3 million** in 2025.

MARKETING EFFORTS

National Travel & Tourism Week 2026

GoRockford celebrated **National Travel & Tourism Week (May 3-9, 2026)** with a campaign highlighting tourism's impact on the Rockford region while recognizing the people and businesses that create exceptional visitor experiences. In partnership with local businesses, GoRockford assembled **Experience Rockford Packs** featuring locally made products, increasing foot traffic to the GoRockford visitor center. A National Travel and Tourism Week prize giveaway generated **243 new e-newsletter subscribers**. For the fourth year, GoRockford recognized five local Hospitality Heroes: Cheryl Yanez (Embassy Suites), JoAnn Peterson (Anderson Japanese Gardens), Sports Factory Maintenance Team (Sports Factory), Carter Weaver (DairyHaus), and Alan Gonzalez (Screw City Vintage). Additional outreach included the launch of an official summer bucket list, social media campaign, and a marketing booth at Food Truck Tuesdays.

Influencer Collaborations

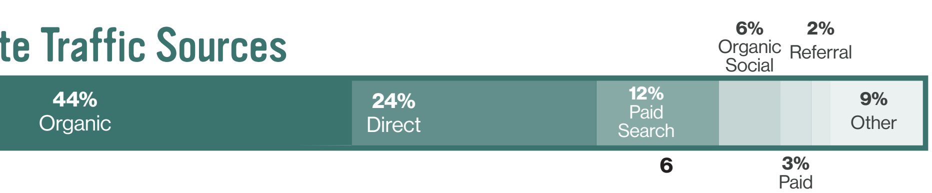
GoRockford collaborated with Enjoy Illinois and Wisconsin based content creator Miss Northerner on a Rockford itinerary including Rock Cut State Park, DC Estate Winery, Gretta's Goats, Embassy Suites, Klehm Arboretum and more. She created four total posts with combined views of 1.4 million views with 27,884 interactions. GoRockford worked with Illinois Foodies to promote a spring and summer bucket list in Rockford in April. The posts had 7,276 views with 288 interactions.

South Main Mercado & Juneteenth Awards

In June, GoRockford participated in South Main Mercado with a marketing booth to connect with a new audience and showcase the many attractions, events, and experiences throughout the Rockford region. GoRockford sponsored and selected the Juneteenth Community Award recipients who received their awards at the Rockford Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 19.

MOST SEARCHED TERMS	MOST SEARCHED EVENTS	MOST SEARCHED LISTINGS
Things To Do In Rockford	**IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford**	**Anderson Japanese Gardens**
Events in Rockford	**South Main Mercado**	**Food Truck Park in Loves Park**
Restaurants in Rockford, IL	**Memorial Day Events**	**Olson Lake Beach**

Website Traffic Sources



122,115 total website users

DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT

CRE8IV SCULPTURE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW

Static Vestige, by Benjamin Jose finds its new temporary home in Rockford for the CRE8IV biennial sculpture program.

GoRockford's CRE8IV sculpture initiative continued to expand in 2026, further strengthening Rockford's reputation as a destination for arts, culture, and placemaking. The biennial sculpture program welcomed **Static Vestige** by artist **Benjamin Jose**, installed at West State and Jefferson streets as the newest leased sculpture in the rotating outdoor exhibition.

Since its launch in 2018, the program has transformed public spaces throughout the region with large-scale sculptures that encourage exploration, enhance neighborhood character, and create memorable visitor experiences. There are currently **33 sculptures** on display in the region and there are **57 large-scale murals** as part of the program.

The program also reached an important milestone with the addition of four sculptures to GoRockford's permanent collection through the generosity of community partners. ***Steve and Rachel*** and ***Karen***, both by John McNamara, were donated by the Illinois Arts Council and the Brubaker Family Foundation, while ***Millennium Gate*** and ***Keyhole Flutter Gateway***, both by Jim Gallucci, were donated by the Dean Alan Olson Foundation and GoRockford. These permanent installations ensure that the community's investment in public art will continue to enrich the Rockford region for years to come while advancing CRE8IV's mission of creating vibrant public spaces that inspire residents and visitors alike.

ART TOUR AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

GoRockford partnered with the Rockford Area Arts Council to provide a guided public art bus tour for residents of Wesley Willows. Led by Destination Development Operations Manager Julie Huber and Rockford Area Arts Council Community Engagement Officer Jordan DeWilde, the tour highlighted murals, sculptures, and other installations created through GoRockford's CRE8IV initiative. By introducing residents to the public art throughout the region, the experience celebrated Rockford's creative identity while demonstrating how placemaking can foster community pride, encourage exploration, and enhance quality of life for both residents and visitors.

As a thank you to one of its longtime partners, the Destination Development team hosted a hospitality tent at the Northwestern Illinois Building Trades annual golf outing, recognizing the organization's continued support of GoRockford events and the important role the skilled trades play in building and enhancing the community.

Destination Development sets up a hospitality tent for the Northwestern Illinois Building Trades.

Newly installed Forest City Beautiful signage uses GoRockford's new branding.

FOREST CITY BEAUTIFUL

Since 2014, **Forest City Beautiful** has enhanced downtown Rockford through seasonal landscaping, public art, streetscape improvements, benches, wayfinding signage, and other beautification projects that create welcoming spaces for residents and visitors. This year, the initiative introduced new signage featuring updated GoRockford branding, adding a fresh, cohesive look to key corridors while strengthening the city's identity and sense of place.

Made possible through partnerships with the City of Rockford and generous support from businesses, foundations, and individual donors, Forest City Beautiful continues to invest in projects that enhance the visitor experience, encourage exploration, and create a vibrant downtown that residents are proud to call home.

GoRockford is grateful to the community sponsors that help make this initiative possible including:

City of Rockford
David & Colleen Anderson Charitable Foundation
Bergstrom
LawnCare by Walter
CoyleKiley Insurance, Inc.
Rockford Park District
Franchesco's Ristorante
WIFR
WIPFLI
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
Rockford University
John & LuAnn Groh
Bobbie Holwarth & Norm Lindstrom
Carol & John Schuster
BMO Center
Thomas McNamara
Jim Pirages
Marcia Mueller
Dickerson & Nieman Realtors
KMK Media Group
Geno Iafrate
Jennifer Furst
Greg Watt
Maurice West
NorthWest Illinois Alliance of REALTORS
Rockford Area Arts Council
Rocktown Adventures
Jim & Pam Keeling
Justin & Theresa Kegley
Leslie West
Patricia Diduch
Kim Keefe, Compass
Peter & Heather Provenzano Charitable Trust
Rockford IceHogs
Rosecrance
Iconic Energy
Fridh Corporation

MADE FOR ROCKFORD

NEW RESIDENT SPRING MIXER

New residents mingle at the spring Made for Rockford mixer in April.

More than **100 newcomers** gathered at the **Rockford Public Library** terrace for Made for Rockford's spring new resident mixer in April. The evening featured live saxophone music, interactive games, and opportunities to connect with fellow newcomers, community partners, and Mayor Tom McNamara. By helping new residents build relationships early, these events strengthen community connections and support long-term talent retention.

ROLECALL TALENT ATTRACTION SUMMIT

Made for Rockford Program Director Whitney Martin attends RoleCall Talent Attraction Summit in April.

Made for Rockford Program Director Whitney Martin was selected as a featured panelist at the **2026 RoleCall Talent Attraction Summit** in Buffalo, New York in April. During a session on strategic media coverage for community growth, Martin shared how authentic storytelling and earned media can elevate a community's reputation, attract new talent, and build lasting momentum for talent attraction efforts.

WEBSITE LAUNCH & MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Made for Rockford launched a redesigned website alongside a targeted marketing campaign focused on recruiting talent in key industries. The Made for Rockford website serves as a one-stop relocation resource, offering information on careers, housing, neighborhoods, schools, recreation, and quality of life. Interest was immediate, with more than **80 prospective residents** requesting complimentary Move to Rockford relocation kits during the first month.

IRONMAN 70.3 WELCOME BOOTHS

GoTeam members showcase Rockford attractions and information at IRONMAN welcome booths at hotels in June.

During IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford race weekend in June, Made for Rockford's **Go Team** ambassadors staffed welcome booths at participating hotels, greeting athletes and their families with local recommendations and community information. These conversations helped create a memorable first impression while showcasing Rockford's hospitality, making visitors feel welcomed and encouraging them to see the community as a place worth returning and potentially calling home.

MERCYHEALTH MEDICAL RESIDENT TOUR

Made for Rockford hosted a community bus tour for incoming Mercyhealth medical residents, introducing life in Rockford beyond the workplace. The tour included visits to **Anderson Japanese Gardens, the Coronado Performing Arts Center**, and **Rock Cut State Park**, along with stops highlighting local neighborhoods, recreation, and community amenities. Residents also sampled locally roasted coffee while learning about the region, helping them build an early connection to the community and supporting long-term physician retention.

GoROCKFORD BOARD & STAFF

GoRockford Board of Directors

Geno Iafrate (Chair)
Hard Rock Rockford

Tiana McCall (Vice Chair)

Mick Gronewold (Treasurer)
Fehr Graham Engineering & Environmental

Dana Martin (Secretary)
Rosecrance Behavioral Health

Carol Schuster
University of Illinois College of Medicine - Rockford

Jennifer Furst
Furst Staffing

Shelton Kay
Rockford Regional Health Council

Richard Shuga
Painters District Council No. 30 Local 607

Todd Cagnoni
City of Rockford

Gretchen Gilmore
Rockford Area Venues & Entertainment Authority (R.A.V.E.)

Angela Larson
Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce

Chintan Thakkar
Decorum Management Group

Mark Henderson
Village of Rockton

Bobbie Holzwarth
HolmstromKennedy

Ricardo Montoya-Picazo
Office of State Representative Dave Vella

Patrick Thompson
Winnebago County

Duncan Geddes
City of Loves Park

Sonya Hoppes
City of South Beloit

Jay Sandine
Rockford Park District

Kirk Weitzel
Rock Hospitality

Ald. Kevin Frost
City of Rockford

GoRockford Foundation Board of Directors

Carol Schuster (Foundation Chair)
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Geno Iafrate (Vice Chair)
Hard Rock Rockford

Marco Lenis (Foundation Treasurer)
Vocational Rehabilitation Management

Gina Caruana (Foundation Secretary)
Foresight Financial Group

David Anderson
Anderson Japanese Gardens

Jennifer Furst
Furst Staffing

Jeff Marrs
Morgan Stanley

Leslie West
State Farm

Rebecca Francis
Ignite Change Solutions LLC

Theresa Kegley
Movement Fitness

Jim Pirages
AGHL Law

Alexis Wright-Conniff
Woodward

GoRockford Staff

John Groh
President, CEO

Kristen Paul
Executive Vice President

Lindsay Arellano
Vice President of Sales & Service

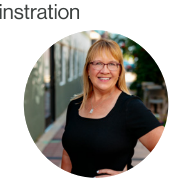
Joanne Nold
Vice President of Finance & Adminstration

Amanda August
Social Media and Communications Specialist

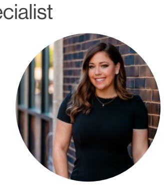
Chenaire Barmore
Communications Manager

Kara Davis
Senior Sales Manager

Elizabeth Falls
Marketing Manager



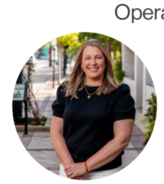
Julie Huber
Destination Development Operations Manager



Whitney Martin
Made for Rockford Program Director

Kyra Murray
Marketing & Customer Experience Coordinator

Emily Plumb
Sales & Servicing Manager



Leah Ticknor
Office Manager & Executive Assistant

GoRockford Board of Directors
April 22, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GoRockford Annex

Board Present: Todd Cagnoni, Kevin Frost, John Groh, Tiana McCall, Bobbie Holzwarth, Dana Martin, Gretchen Gilmore, Angela Larson, Rich Schuga, Kirk Weitzel, Geno Iafrate, Ricardo Montoya-Picazo, Jennifer Furst, Mark Henderson, Chintan Thakkar, Jay Sandine

Board Absent: Sonya Hoppes, Mick Gronewold, Patrick Thompson, Duncan Geddes, Carol Schuster, Shelton Kay

Staff Present: Kristen Paul, Joanne Nold, Lindsay Arellano, Leah Ticknor, Whitney Martin

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Geno Iafrate

Approval of Meeting Minutes:
It was moved and seconded to approve the March 25, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

CEO Monitoring Reports:
It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Internal Monitoring Reports, including John Groh's CEO interpretations, for monitoring on:

- 2.1 Treatment of Customers & Partners
- 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
- 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities

Board Development Committee Report/Approval Election of Officers, Board Members:
It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendations of the Board Development Committee to elect, in one slate, the following:

OFFICERS: The following individuals are recommended to serve as officers, each serving a one-year term term, beginning at the conclusion of the June 2026 meeting and concluding in June 2027.
- Chair: Geno Iafrate, Hard Rock Rockford
- Vice Chair: Jennifer Furst, Furst Staffing
- Treasurer: Chintan Thakkar, Decorum Management Group
- Secretary: Dana Martin, Rosecrance Behavioral Health
- Immediate Past Chair: Carol Schuster, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford

RETURNING: The following individuals are recommended to serve an additional three-year term, beginning at the June 2026 meeting and concluding in June 2029.
- Todd Cagnoni – City of Rockford

NEW: The following individual is recommended to serve a three-year term, beginning at the June 2026 meeting and concluding in June 2029.
- Tom Budd, Market President – Illinois, UMB Bank

Expired Terms: The following member's term is expiring.
Having served two consecutive terms, the member is not eligible for an additional term. As such, she will depart the board following the June meeting with the gratitude of the board and staff.

- Tiana McCall

The motion carried unanimously.

CEO Report:
America 250 – GoRockford is acting as fiscal agent. News Conference on May 8th to announce scholarships awarded. United Way is spearheading the 1st 250th event, which is volunteering through service in the community. In honor of America250 and Earth Day, many volunteers will clean the Ironman run route.

Made for Rockford – April 23rd is the next Residence Mixer held at the library from 6-8 pm. Over 250 have responded. John invited the board to attend from 6-8:30 pm.

IRONMAN is only two months away, and coordination and planning are going well. 2,000 registered. The board is encouraged to attend the event and is invited to help pass out medals to the finishers. John will send emails to board members in mid-May asking them to volunteer.

Forest City Beautiful: Letters were sent out last week to begin the fundraising. Hanging baskets and planters will all be red, white, and blue for America 250. The Forest City Beautiful Program will also take over the Midtown planters to match the same schedule as the rest of the planters.

Sports ETA - Lindsay and Kara are at a trade show. They have 60 appointments. Looking forward to hearing about potential bookings for Rockford.

Rockyard - Press Conference on the patio, May 12th. GoRockford will announce a new annual end-of-summer festival. This event will launch as the final celebration of America 250 on 815 Day. Full lineup of bands, field activities like cake walks, pie eating, and lawn games. Working with Ramp on the 5k and 10k races. Fireworks and drone show. Kristen thanked Geno for being the 1st official sponsorship along with America 250 fundraising money.

Tourism Improvement District Update – Three weeks ago, GoRockford had meetings at Hard Rock with the TID Steering Committee, Hotel Owners/GMs, and local city Officials. Conversations have been healthy, and hoteliers have asked clarifying questions. John went through the TID Proposed District Plan, the TID's potential budget allocations, and the Formation Timeline with the Board. A 2% collection could start as early as September. Chintan Thakkar asked for clarification on the Steering Committee's responsibilities and on the GoRockford Board's responsibilities for TID. The board's future role is to review and approve the Steering Committee's recommendations on how the money will be spent. The board's involvement will be important as we go through the formation process with all municipalities and through public conversations as TID moves forward. New hotels with over 45 rooms would automatically be added to the TID. Chintan and Kirk Weitzel both stated that they supported the TID. Jay Sandine also commented in support of the TID on behalf of the park district.

Community Partner Updates:
Angela Larson – Economic Insight: A Conversation with Austan Goolsbee May 12 | 11:30 a.m. | Tebala Event Center, 7910 Newburg Rd, Rockford
Gretchen Gilmore – Nine graduations this year at BMO and capital improvements at the Corornado. Coronado Summer Cinema will be announced today. Wicked 2 and Zootopia 2, which will be free to the community.
Tiana McCall – Graduations for RPS
Todd Cagnoni – Davis Park is moving along and should be done by June 1st. Davis Park building structures to be open sometime this fall. Lots of construction is starting on Auburn and Chestnut Street. The remainder of Madison Street will hopefully be done by the end of the year.

<u>Kirk Weitzel</u> – Property improvement plan is underway.
<u>Chintan Thakkar</u> – Q1 was great, but April has been down 25% over last year.
<u>Ricardo Montoya-Picazo</u> – State Representative Dave Vella and Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (KNIB) invite local residents to a free paint recycling event on Saturday, April 25, 2026.
<u>Mark Henderson</u> – May Day Faerie Festival on May 2nd, Rockton River Market kicking off May 20thduc, introcuding a Farmers Market, and the Rockton Pelican Fest on May 16th.
<u>Jennifer Furst</u> – Rosecrance Foundation Annual Benefit on May 12th at Hard Rock with a special performance by Emily Bear.
<u>Jay Sandine</u> – Redevelopment of Aldeen Golf Course bunkers is complete. Working on an Economic Impact Analysis which will be presented in May.
<u>Bobbie Holzwarth</u> - 1834 Alliance Honors & Celebration on June 4th, hosted by Transform Rockford, celebrating the people, partnerships, and bold efforts that have and continue to shape Rockford. John will send out more information to the board.
<u>Dana Martin</u> – Rosecrance Foundation Annual Benefit on May 12th at Hard Rock with special performance by Emily Bear, and getting started on Greenwich Village Art Scene September 19th & 20th

<u>Adjournment</u>: At 8:43 a.m. Chair Geno Iafrate adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Martin

Dana Martin, Board Secretary
lt

GoRockford
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

GoRockford Board of Directors
June 17, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GoRockford Annex

Board Present: Todd Cagnoni, John Groh, Tiana McCall, Bobbie Holzwarth, Dana Martin, Gretchen Gilmore, Rich Schuga, Geno Iafrate, Ricardo Montoya-Picazo, Jennifer Furst, Mark Henderson, Chintan Thakkar, Tom Budd, Mick Gronewold, Carol Schuster, Shelton Kay.

Board Absent: Sonya Hoppes, Jay Sandine, Angela Larson, Kirk Weitzel, Duncan Geddes, Patrick Thompson; Kevin Frost

Guests Present: Amy McIntyre

Staff Present: Kristen Paul, Joanne Nold, Lindsay Arellano, Leah Ticknor

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Geno Iafrate

Approval of Meeting Minutes:
It was moved and seconded to approve the April 22, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Recognition of Outgoing & Incoming of New Board Member
- Tiana McCall (Outgoing)
- Mick Gronewold (Outgoing)
- Tom Budd (Incoming)

CEO Monitoring Reports:
It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Internal Monitoring Reports, including John Groh's CEO interpretations, for monitoring on:

- 2.8 Communication & Support to Board
- 2.9 Programs/Events/Services/Logistics

Governance Process:
John presented Kyle Schilling's bio to the board for nomination and election to the GoRockford board. It was moved and seconded to approve Kyle Schilling's 3-year term on the GoRockford board, starting in July 2026. Motion carried.

CEO Report:
IRONMAN 70**.3 Rockford Recap:** John shared photos and highlights from another successful IRONMAN 70.3 Rockford weekend. Nearly 1,300 volunteers filled more than 1,600 volunteer shifts, approximately double the number typically needed to host a 70.3 event, demonstrating exceptional community support. The event concluded without any athletes being transported to the hospital, demonstrating a safe day for all athletes.

Board members noted increased spectator engagement throughout the course, driven in part by GoRockford's efforts to promote viewing locations. Popular activations, including Sprinkler Alley and Lot 7, enhanced the athlete and spectator experience, while the finish line atmosphere was especially memorable. John recognized the more than 50 community partners whose months of planning and collaboration made the event possible.

Board members also shared positive feedback. Mark Henderson noted a significant increase in spectators in Rockton. Gretchen Gilmore reflected on the emotional moment of a blind athlete crossing the finish line with his father. Bobbie shared an email from an attorney whose son competed, praising Rockford and the GoRockford team for their outstanding organization. Amy McIntyre commented that the event ran so smoothly because of the team's attention to detail and recognized the addition of the music trolley.

John reported that preliminary discussions have begun regarding an extension of the IRONMAN contract. The 2027 event is scheduled for Sunday, June 13.

Women's Motorcycle World Record Attempt: John shared a GoRockford video of the event, which has received more than one million views online. Nearly 2,000 women motorcyclists participated, surpassing the previous world record. Geno Iafrate remarked that he had never seen anything like it. Organizers and participants were already discussing plans to return to Rockford next year.

Tourism Improvement District (TID) Update: John reported on the recent TID petition-signing event at Hard Rock, attended by hotel owners and the steering committee. Hotel owners representing 70% of the anticipated assessed revenue signed petitions in support of forming the district.

The project remains on schedule. John noted that the strong level of participation reflects the hotel community's confidence in GoRockford's ability to successfully implement and manage the TID.

America250: John invited board members to participate in the upcoming America250 celebrations on July 3, including the free concert and block party at the Coronado Performing Arts Center.

Forest City Beautiful: Geno encouraged the Board to demonstrate its support by participating in the Forest City Beautiful fundraising initiative.

RockYard: John provided an update on RockYard, the two-day music festival at Davis Park that will conclude the summer's America 250 celebration and 815 Day festivities. Kristen noted that sponsorship opportunities are still available and volunteers will be needed as the event approaches. RockYard will feature live music, games, and activities with a nostalgic, throwback atmosphere.

Community Partner Updates:

- **Gretchen Gilmore** – BMO Center successfully hosted multiple high school graduations. Next free movie is Zootopia 2 at the Coronado. The Coronado will turn 100 in 2027. A committee was formed to plan fun events around this milestone. Several improvement projects are happening this summer.

- **Todd Cagnoni** – Site work is predominantly done at Davis Park. The skate park is open and will hold a ribbon-cutting in about one month. Lots of road work being done this summer. City is working with Geno Iafrate to get started on the new Hard Rock Hotel.

- **Mark Henderson** – Following environmental testing, the Village of Rockton found that the Sunoco property on the riverfront is better than expected, so working with developers to develop plans for how best to utilize the land. Old Settlers Day is coming up on June 18 - June 21.

- **Amy McIntyre** – Botanical exhibit going on; Battle of the Borders is back with Trek at Atwood Park, Alpine Park playground activation with new dog park Canine Corner opening in September. The full replacement of the irrigation system at Ingersoll Golf Course is underway. Installing AED outdoor safety cabinets around the Park District.

- **Geno Iafrate:** Geno shared that Hard Rock Rockford has officially joined the Hard Rock Global Loyalty Program after navigating a complex process to comply with Illinois gaming regulations. Guests can now earn and redeem loyalty points at the Rockford property as part of the worldwide Hard Rock network.

  Geno also clarified recent discussions regarding the planned hotel. He noted that the City is not giving Hard Rock millions of dollars to build the hotel. Rather, the project is being financed through a partnership in which the City provides financing backed by gaming tax revenues, while Hard Rock is responsible for repaying that financing in accordance with the agreement.

- **Carol Schuster** – Thanked Geno for hosting the Sum Function documentary premiere of Oscar Mike, an award-winning documentary about the U.S.-only all-veteran wheelchair rugby team, at Hard Rock.

Adjournment: At 8:44 a.m. Chair Geno Iafrate adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Martin

Dana Martin, Board Secretary
lt

Governing Policy of the

GoRockford Board of Directors

Executive Limitations Policy 2.1 – Treatment of Customers, Partners & Stakeholders

Management Limitations

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Ends Policies
Monitoring on Policy 2.1 – Treatment of Customers, Partners & Stakeholders

I hereby present my annual monitoring report on your Executive Limitations Policy 2.1, Treatment of Customers, Partners & Stakeholders, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true for the annual period ending March 31, 2026.

Signed,

John Groh, President/CEO

April 15, 2026

POLICY 2.1

"With respect to interactions with customers, stakeholders and/or partners, the President/CEO will not cause or allow conditions or procedures which are unfair, unsafe, undignified, untimely, unresponsive, or which fail to provide appropriate confidentiality or privacy."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) I interpret "unsafe" conditions as those that would risk jeopardizing the physical safety of customers or others at the GoRockford office or at our sponsored events and functions. This includes ensuring facility safety, such as safe layouts, snow/ice removal, and trip-hazard mitigation.

I interpret "undignified" conditions to be those that would cause embarrassment or are inconsistent with a culture of providing a friendly, welcoming, and respectful customer service experience. All customers, stakeholders, partners, and residents are to be treated with respect and in a friendly manner.

I interpret "untimely" and "unresponsive" as meaning that programs, activities, and meetings are to take place as scheduled, and inquiries, applications, registrations, etc., are to be addressed and/or responded to within commonly accepted timeframes, such as one business day for telephone messages and email messages or to acknowledge requests for additional information.

I interpret "fail to provide appropriate confidentiality or privacy" as actions that infringe on the individual's privacy (addressed further, along with confidentiality, under Provision 2.1.1 below) and time, such as repeated, unnecessary, or overly long phone calls, meetings, or communication from GoRockford.

REPORT: Regarding safety, GoRockford's office space has been maintained to prevent undue risk of injury. In the past year, there have been no accidents or injuries to employees, customers, or visitors at our office.

When organizing events, logistical considerations always incorporate safety as a concern. No injuries or accidents have involved attendees at GoRockford-sponsored events (such as news conferences and industry partner meetings). Additionally, as GoRockford plans for Stroll on State and IRONMAN events, significant consideration is given to public safety. GoRockford works closely with staff from the City of Rockford's Public Works, Fire Department and Police Department (and other related agencies) to ensure a safe environment. This is accomplished through active engagement and safety planning with partners prior to each event.

I'm pleased to report that complaints of disrespectful, undignified, and unnecessarily intrusive treatment by GoRockford are so rare that, while we have a documented complaint procedure, we have not had to activate our system of complaint tracking and response in this regard to GoRockford. Many compliments about the way our staff has treated customers/stakeholders have been received (via letter, e-mail, and/or telephone). While I've informed the board periodically of such compliments, a file is maintained and available for review upon request.

No complaints or concerns have been raised regarding privacy and confidentiality. Our processes for assuring confidentiality are outlined in section 2.1.1.

I am reporting compliance.

Accordingly, the President/ CEO shall not:

2.1.1 "Collect, review, transmit, or store client data/information without protecting against improper access to that information."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) Information collected from customers and stakeholders must be available only to appropriate staff as needed. It is to be stored, shared, and, when appropriate, destroyed in a manner that ensures documents/data are not accessed by or circulated to any parties other than those with relevant staff duties.

REPORT: GoRockford has established security systems for its documents, buildings, and equipment that meet industry standards for good business practices.

We have a security system in place: the office building is protected by an alarm system, and the office space is locked and alarmed at the end of each day. To further enhance security at the office, exterior security cameras are installed, and a keyless entry system is in place with individual codes for each staff member. All phone mailboxes and computers are protected by passwords. GoRockford stores and disposes of paper and electronic documents/files according to a board-approved records retention policy that complies with all state, federal, and regulatory policies.

All client information stored on our computer systems requires a login name and password for access, and files are backed up continuously. Additionally, client and partner records and contact information are stored in an internet-based, industry-specific Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system that is updated and verified for accuracy regularly.

Credit card information is collected for retail sales at the bureau in electronic format to process transactions using Square. Receipts and reports display only the last four digits of the credit card number. All staff members handling the credit card information have undergone background checks.

Entré Computer Solutions remotely monitors our IT environment 24/7 using real-time data from our network. The NetMonitor program protects our system from data loss and theft while maintaining a continuous network connection. Reports are provided to staff as concerns arise and annual meetings are held with consultants to review the results.

No instances or complaints have been received regarding improper use of or access to stakeholder or customer information held by GoRockford.

I am reporting compliance.

2.1.2 "Operate without clearly conveying to customers/stakeholders/partners what may be expected from the services offered."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report) I interpret this to mean that customers, stakeholders, and partners are properly informed about our services, programs, and special events using various methods; (i.e., emails, news events, newsletters, blogs, etc.) and that, particularly for those to register for or participate in specific GoRockford functions, the information clearly and accurately portrays details to avoid confusion or misunderstandings regarding expectations.

REPORT: GoRockford regularly communicates information about its special events, online training/webinars, services, and programs to its customers/partners through various channels, e.g., phone, website, e-mail, mailings, social media, and direct contact.

Customers/partners are provided with a list of programs and/or services. Materials are updated and typically include the disclaimer that all "information is subject to change." For further assistance, our name, address and contact numbers are on print/non-print materials. GoRockford updates its customers, partners, stakeholders, and community on an ongoing basis through news releases, industry partner newsletters, our website, news events, media appearances, community events, and via social media. Additionally, group clients (e.g., meeting/event planners) receive written confirmation of what services GoRockford will provide as part of our servicing commitment for their event.

All news releases, newsletters, advertisements, and printed materials are required to be proofread for accuracy and clarity by a minimum of two people in addition to the writer.

GoRockford follows a pre-established written procedure for handling all complaints regarding our programs and services, and I am pleased to report that there have been no complaints in the past year of GoRockford pertaining to the portrayal of programs or services.

I am reporting compliance.

2.1.3 "Operate without clear procedures to address complaints/concerns raised by customers/stakeholders/partners."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) I interpret this to mean that GoRockford must have an easy-to-understand procedure for addressing complaints or concerns received from customers, stakeholders, or partners.

REPORT: GoRockford does have a complaint policy and procedure. The policy details how complaints should be documented, processed, and resolved, and who on staff should be involved in resolving them. Further, the policy differentiates processes for complaints against GoRockford vs. partner organizations/businesses.

I am reporting compliance.

2.1.4 "Operate without earnest efforts to collaborate with other organizations and entities to achieve GoRockford's Ends."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) I interpret this to mean we must consistently work strategically, cooperatively, and collaboratively with appropriate local, regional, state, and national organizations, governments, and businesses to achieve GoRockford's ends.

REPORT: GoRockford staff works with key partners to advance the tourism industry by hosting regular meetings with industry partners, providing consistent communication through a variety of avenues and encouraging participation in GoRockford initiatives.

These meetings engage industry partners in the planning and execution of many GoRockford programs, initiatives, and services. GoRockford solicits input from area hotel and sites/attractions partners through regularly scheduled meetings, including hotel general manager/director of sales meetings, marketing partnership meetings, and periodic meetings with media partners, business leaders, elected officials, and other similar stakeholder groups.

The following provides a snapshot of how GoRockford has been involved in collaborative efforts and demonstrates compliance:

- GoRockford is participating in meetings with Tommy Meeks, the organizer of Rockford's Juneteenth Celebration, and the committee in preparation for the 2026 celebration.

- GoRockford's Forest City Beautiful initiative's scope has expanded beyond the 6-year agreement to include 36 additional planters in the Midtown District.

- GoRockford has maintained its quarterly Marketing Partners meetings with hoteliers, site, and attraction executive staff. The use of the Partner Portal at gorockford.com has increased engagement with our partners and enabled self-managed changes to listings and events.

- GoRockford is serving as a leader of the Rockford/Winnebago County America 250 committee, leading the volunteer and marketing subcommittees, and serving as the financial agency. In addition, GoRockford is launching a new event to celebrate the country's semiquincentennial.

- GoRockford staff provide leadership and serve on boards and committees of partner organizations to increase collaboration toward accomplishing GoRockford goals/priorities. In the past year, groups served in this capacity by GoRockford include, but are not limited to:
    - Destinations International committees
    - Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce – Economic Development Committee & Workforce Development Committee
    - Illinois Destinations Association board
    - Illinois Arts Council board
    - Juneteenth committee
    - Laurent House Foundation board
    - Next Rockford strategy team
    - Parks Chamber of Commerce board
    - River District Association board
    - Rockford Area Arts Council board
    - Rockford Day committee
    - 250th Celebration Committee
    - Center for Investment Readiness Joint Task Force
    - Sports Illinois board

I am reporting compliance.

2.1.5 "Operate without earnest efforts to continuously engage and build relationships with our diverse communities and residents."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) I interpret this to mean the GoRockford staff will intentionally engage with our diverse community through both formal and informal avenues, including engagement in community groups, committees, or with organizations managed by or in support of diverse communities in ways that will provide additional insights on our ability to practice allyship. Further, we will seek out opportunities to engage with individuals and organizations (e.g., via emails, calls, meetings, volunteer service) to ensure collaboration and relationship building.

REPORT: Over the past year, the following actions demonstrate compliance:

- Stroll on State continues to create additional holiday décor, including nutcrackers painted to represent a diverse population. Our staff has grown partnerships with Soar Radio, the Coalition of Latino Leaders, Think Big!, and the Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to ensure diverse representation on music stages and throughout the vendor areas.

- Stroll on State continues to partner with over 10 nonprofit groups to fundraise at Stroll S'mores, hot chocolate, and bars, raising money and awareness for their organizations.

- GoRockford's marketing features the region's diverse cultural offerings. Blogs, social posts, and campaigns regularly highlight diverse audiences and culturally specific events, restaurants, and stores.

- In addition, during the year, GoRockford partnered with several groups to support and, in some cases, help plan events and festivals that were, in part, planned for diverse audiences, including Inner City Reconstruction Group's Juneteenth celebration and South Main Mercado.

- Made for Rockford talent attraction efforts intentionally connect newcomers with community groups and culturally diverse networks, helping foster belonging and deeper community integration beyond initial recruitment.

Collectively, these efforts demonstrate an ongoing, intentional commitment to building authentic relationships, elevating diverse voices, and ensuring that GoRockford's work reflects and supports the full breadth of our community.

I am reporting compliance.

2.1.6. "Operate without a process for considering the viewpoints of customers, stakeholders and/or partners along with relevant data and trends when considering matters of public policy or legislation that may materially impact GoRockford or the industry."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) I interpret this to mean that when GoRockford considers taking positions on public policy or legislation that has the potential to materially impact GoRockford or the industry, it must have a process that considers the views and opinions of key stakeholders, customers, and/or partners.

Further, our analysis must consider currently available information, fact-based data, and trends on the related topic under consideration. I define "material impact" as indicating that the policy or legislation could significantly impact GoRockford or the industry, positively or negatively. Recent examples include legislation on "bathroom bills," sanctuary city policies, gun control ordinances, and policies regarding LGBTQ rights. Locally, the issues might revolve around the imposition and use of industry-related taxes or tax incentives for industry projects/investments.

Notably, I interpret that while this policy requires that we consider the views of partners, customers, and stakeholders, we are required to especially consider the impact on GoRockford or the industry, not necessarily the impact on a single business or group of businesses/organizations.

Finally, when dealing with public policy, time is often of the essence. During such times, GoRockford staff will use their best judgment in making decisions and communicating the organization's viewpoints, keeping board members and partners apprised as appropriate.

REPORT: GoRockford staff utilizes a "filters" process designed to weigh the viewpoints of all sides, including potential opposition, of issues and measures what effects it may have on GoRockford's standing in the community or the industry at large. The "filters" process is used to evaluate public policy anytime GoRockford is asked to make statements/take a position on public and private ventures of material impact or that GoRockford has not previously taken a position on.

During the past year, no issues have risen to the level of activating the formal filters process, nor have concerns been raised regarding GoRockford's failure to consider the views of customers, stakeholders, or partners in public policy or legislation matters.

I am reporting compliance.

2.1.7 Operate without ensuring our marketing, advertising, and other efforts reflect and celebrate the diversity of our community and without utilizing communication channels owned by or proven to be successful in reaching diverse audiences.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (There have been no changes since the last report.) I interpret this to mean that as we implement marketing and advertising efforts, we will showcase visually and through cultural celebration our community's ethnicities and diverse populations, intentionally including underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, the disability community, and LGBTQ+ communities.

I interpret "utilizing communication channels owned by or proven to be successful in reaching diverse audiences" to mean that GoRockford will allocate a portion of its advertising budget to using media outlets that specifically cater to diverse individuals, including media outlets for individuals who speak/read a language other than English. Notably, I interpret that while this policy requires that we consider these media outlets, we should also consider the amount of use and ad spending within these outlets to ensure appropriate comparability and effectiveness.

I interpret "celebrate the diversity of our community" to mean GoRockford will seek and implement ways to share and create positive narratives surrounding the rich history and contributions of the many ethnicities and diverse individuals within Winnebago County. In addition, I interpret it to be the board's intention that we establish partnerships and promote the work of others and their efforts to showcase the unique history of the Rockford community, intentionally being inclusive of the impact made by minority individuals in the region.

REPORT: The following demonstrates compliance:

- GoRockford's year-round content strategy (blogs, social media, email marketing, and website features) consistently highlights diverse voices, including minority-owned businesses, cultural events, and community leaders, ensuring representation is not limited to designated heritage months.

- GoRockford continues its intentionality in ensuring diversity and inclusion in marketing materials and events. Below are some of the specific examples within recent programs:
    - Rockford Region restaurant industry video showcasing women, cultural and ethnic minority business owners, and utilizing minority social media influencers
    - Black History Month "What does black history mean to you" campaign
    - Stroll on State tree lighting ceremonies and musical performances stage representation
    - Stroll on State food/vendor markets and small business support
    - CRE8IV mural themes and imagery used in promotional materials

- Partnership with local influencers and content creators from diverse backgrounds continues to expand, helping authentically reach and engage underrepresented audiences through trusted voices.

- GoRockford Marketing team is working to incorporate additional marketing channels, including advertising Stroll on State: ads were purchased in El Sol and La Bamba radio to help reach our Spanish-speaking Latino and Hispanic communities. In addition, radio promotional interviews were completed with local radio stations 106.3 and SOAR Radio to help reach African American community members.

- GoRockford maintains AudioEye on GoRockford.com, an online tool that increases accessibility throughout the site. It has a recognizable global accessibility icon that lives on our website, and a toolbar is available for navigation as needed.

I am reporting compliance.

Prepared by: John Groh/Kristen Paul

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President & CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report - Management Limitations
Monitoring on Policy 2.3 – Financial Planning/Budget

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.3, "Financial Planning/Budget," in accordance with the monitoring schedule outlined in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is accurate.

Signed,

John Groh, President & CEO — Date: April 17, 2026

POLICY 2.3 – FINANCIAL PLANNING/BUDGETING

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION:

"Financial planning for any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year will not deviate materially from the Board's Ends Priority, risk fiscal jeopardy, or fail to address multi-year planning considerations."

CEO INTERPRETATION*: (Same as the previous report.)* Except for the multi-year planning component, I submit that the Board has comprehensively interpreted this broadest policy statement in its subsequent provisions.

Regarding multi-year planning, I interpret this policy to require that we sufficiently project all capital and depreciation needs and develop the necessary financial resources to achieve our Board's Priority End Results. I also interpret this policy to mean that, as the President & CEO, I have the flexibility to revise budgetary projections throughout the year. However, I am required to keep the Board apprised of any material changes, and these changes must meet all the criteria outlined in this policy.

My interpretations and data reporting are presented below. I will utilize the fiscal information provided in the preliminary financial statements as of March 31, 2026.

REPORT: On June 25, 2025, the board approved a twelve-month budget for the fiscal year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026), with a projected net profit of $8,012 after depreciation of $75,000.

Accordingly, the President & CEO shall not allow budgeting that:

2.3.1 "Risks incurring those situations or conditions described as unacceptable in the "Financial Conditions and Activities" Board policies 2.4.1 - 2.4.4."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I interpret this policy to require that I ensure that financial plans and budgets prepared do not involve liquidity risk situations and conditions described as unacceptable in Section 2.4 of the Financial Condition and Activities Board policies. These policies include items such as expending more funds than have been received during a fiscal year relative to operating reserve guidelines, incurring debt for the organization, settling payroll and payables on time, and ensuring the timely filing of government payments and filings.

REPORT: On June 25, 2025, the board adopted a twelve-month FY25 budget for the period from July 2025 through June 2026. The annual budget was approved with a projected profit of $8,012 after depreciation of $75,000.

The bureau did not draw on the line of credit during the last quarter due to stable hotel tax revenue, grant revenue, and spending that aligned with the planned and approved budget. All budgeted revenue for FY26 is consistent with our mission, and all revenue received during the quarter ended March 31, 2026, was from sources consistent with our mission.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.2 "Omits credible projection of revenues and expenses, separation of capital and operational items, cash flow, and disclosure of planning assumptions."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I interpret this policy to mean that the budget prepared, utilized, and available for presentation must have adequate data to support the credibility of projections. It must highlight the separation of capital items from operational expenses, include a presentation of cash flow expectations for the year, and convey the key assumptions used in creating the projections.

REPORT: The VP of Finance & Administration, along with the President/CEO and program directors, developed the annual budget based on sales and marketing plans, historical financial data, and projected revenue from hotel taxes, state grants, and other predictable sources. Capital expenditures were budgeted separately from expenses. A cash flow projection and a narrative budget summary of assumptions were prepared and shared with the Audit Committee and the GoRockford Board for budget approval.

Management receives monthly financial reports that compare actual results to the budget, and the GoRockford Board receives quarterly financial reports, which include a cash flow statement and a financial analysis of any unanticipated activity. We ended the quarter of March 2026 with a $0 balance on our line of credit, demonstrating that our revenue, expenses, and cash flow projections were reliable.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.3 "Plans the expenditure in any fiscal year of more funds than are conservatively projected to be received."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy requires that a conservative projection of revenues must exceed our most realistic projection of expenses for any fiscal year.

REPORT: Only revenue that is contracted for, on hand from the retained earnings of prior years, or reasonably attainable (e.g., sponsorships) is budgeted.

The projected twelve-month FY26 budget shows a profit of $8,012 after depreciation. Before the depreciation of $75,000, the budget was approved with a projected net income of $83,012.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.4 "Omits allocation for board prerogatives during the year than as set forth in the Cost of Governance Board policy 4.10."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** As the Board establishes its budget for what it believes is important to invest in its own governance, this policy requires that I ensure that the annual budget I prepare for the corporation as a whole allocates at least as much as is stated in the Cost of Governance policy for board prerogatives and functions.

REPORT: The amount outlined in our approved FY26 budget for the cost of Board prerogatives is $19,000 and is budgeted for board consulting, retreats, and legal fees.

I am reporting compliance.

2.3.5 "Fails to maintain operating reserves equivalent to three months of basic operating expenses. Operating reserves are defined as available cash on hand in cash or highly liquid assets and do not include any line of credit or other form of cash flow debt instruments in the calculation thereof."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as previous report)*** I interpret this policy regarding liquidity to require that our financial planning must maintain cash or cash equivalents of at least three months of basic operational costs (estimated at approximately $450,000 for FY26 under the approved budget). As outlined in the policy, this includes cash on hand and highly liquid assets, which I interpret to include the calculation of total short-term assets less short-term liabilities. Additionally, the calculation of operating reserves does not include access to any line of credit or other form of cash flow debt instruments.

NOTE: In June 2023, the board approved a new Reserve Fund Policy that calls for building a designated cash reserve fund over time up to 25% of the annual expense budget for personnel and operations, in combination with the $250,000 line of credit already in place (thus, approximately $200,000 for FY26, complemented by the existing $250,000 line of credit). This will be funded from operating revenue, specifically hotel tax revenue, one of our few revenue streams that is not designated.

REPORT: As of March 31, 2025, the bureau's operating reserve bank account balance was approximately $67,500, with monthly transfers of $2,500 from the operating account to the reserve account. Thus, we are on track to implement the new policy's recommendations and requirements.

At the current transfer rate of $2,500/month, the reserve fund will grow by $30,000 annually. Assuming continued funding and no withdrawals, the balance is projected to reach the target by August 2030.

Revisions to Board Policies 2.3 and 2.4 are recommended to ensure consistency and clarity across governing documents. These revisions should explicitly acknowledge the Reserve Fund Policy and incorporate the designated reserve fund as a distinct component of the organization's overall liquidity and risk management strategy.

As we comply with the new Reserve Fund Policy, I am reporting compliance.

REFER TO MARCH 2026 FINANCIALS
Attachments: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow
Prepared by: John Groh and Joanne Nold 4/17/26

To: GoRockford Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President & CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report- Executive Limitations
Quarterly Monitoring on Policy 2.4 – Financial Condition and Activities

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.4, "Financial Condition and Activities", in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report and the accompanying Income Statement and Balance Sheet are accurate in all material respects.

Signed,

John Groh, President & CEO — April 17, 2026 (Date)

POLICY 2.4 – FINANCIAL CONDITION AND ACTIVITIES

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION:

"With respect to the financial condition and activities, the President & CEO will not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation of actual expenditures from the board's Ends priorities."

CEO's INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I submit that the board's concerns about avoidance of fiscal jeopardy are comprehensively interpreted in this policy's subsequent provisions. Regarding expenditures, I interpret "material deviation of actual expenditures from the Board's Ends priorities" to mean the avoidance of waste, such that all expenditures are to be viewed as investments towards achieving GoRockford's Ends.

REPORT: My interpretations and reporting data on the fiscal jeopardy provisions are presented with those provisions noted below. With respect to expenditures deviating from Ends policies, anticipated expenditures itemized in our FY26 budget are reviewed by the Board when monitoring to ensure adherence to our Financial Planning/Budgeting Policy (2.3). Material variances (none this reporting period) are noted in the monitoring of provision 2.4.5 below.

Accordingly, he/she may not:

2.4.1 "Expend more funds than have been received in the fiscal year to date unless the operating reserve guidelines are met according to 2.3.5."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy requires that year-to-date expenses be less than corresponding revenues. Any exceptions are subject to the operating reserve guidelines.

REPORT: As of March 31, 2026, we have recorded operating revenues of $3,254,701 and incurred operating expenses (expenditures of funds) before depreciation of $3,331,847, resulting in a loss from operations of $77,146. After deducting depreciation expense, we report a net loss of $133,396 for the fiscal year. The approved budget projected a net loss of $124,711 after Q3. We are meeting our operating reserve requirements; therefore, we are reporting compliance.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.2 "Indebt the organization, with the exception of: credit cards or credit accounts used for regular business purposes and paid in full each month; accessing a Board-approved Line of Credit in an amount not to exceed $100,000, with notification to Board Governance Committee of any draws on the line within four business days of each draw. Draws of over $100,000 require Board approval. Any draw on the line should be viewed as a short-term float and be accompanied by a plan for repayment, ideally within 90 days.

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy gives the CEO the latitude to approve any draws against the line of credit (currently maintained at $250,000) within the parameters explicitly stated in the policy provision.

Furthermore, I am responsible for ensuring that GoRockford credit cards are used solely for business purposes and that balances are paid in full each month. However, consistent with my interpretation of Policy 2.4.3, I interpret that other credit accounts can be settled by the due date if terms are explicitly agreed upon, and otherwise within 30 to 60 days.

REPORT: The Bureau entered the quarter with a $0 balance on the line of credit. As no draws were made during the quarter, the line of credit balance as of March 31, 2026, was $0.

In May 2022, the board approved the bureau borrowing up to $100,000 for improvements to the building at 310 S. Winnebago St. On September 14, 2022, the bureau received a $100,000 loan from IL Bank & Trust to cover the costs of major roof repairs and masonry work. The loan is amortized over a 30-year repayment schedule at 6.15% interest, with monthly payments of $1,940 starting on October 14, 2022, to repay the loan in 5 years. The building secures the loan.

The board officers approved, and the board subsequently ratified, the Bureau's application for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) in April 2020. The initial loan proceeds of $10,000 were received on May 1, 2020, and were forgivable under the program. The final loan proceeds of $75,400 were received on June 19, 2020, and bear interest at 2.75% for a 30-year term. Monthly payments of $322 began in December 2022 after multiple deferrals. Since October 2025, the Bureau has been making monthly payments that include both interest and principal.

On September 22, 2025, GoRockford entered into a three-year auto lease agreement for a Ford Explorer with monthly payments of $599. There was no money down, and the auto lease expense was included in the board-approved FY26 budget.

Finally, corporate credit cards and accounts were used solely for typical business purchases during the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.3 "Operate without settling payroll and payables in a timely manner."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Payroll must be paid as required every other Friday. For other payables, I interpret "timely" to mean by the due date if terms are specifically agreed upon and otherwise within thirty to sixty days.

REPORT: As of March 31, 2026, trade accounts payable totaled $104,416. Payables continue to be settled within 30 to 45 days, unless they depend on grant funding that has been delayed. In those situations, we have received payment flexibility from the vendors. Payroll has been paid on time, bi-weekly.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.4 "Allow tax or other government ordered payments or filings to be overdue or inaccurately filed. Requirements include but are not limited to annual independent audits, audit compliance, annual 990 statements, annual budgets, quarterly activity reports and financial statements, minutes, and agendas from Board meetings.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (***Same as the previous report.)*** All tax and government-required payments or filings must be made promptly and accurately.

REPORT: All withholding taxes and other such payments or filings for the period have been made on time and accurately. Federal and state income tax withholdings have been submitted to the proper taxing authorities within 5 business days following the payroll dates. Federal and state unemployment taxes have been paid by the end of the month following the payroll quarter. There are no outstanding filings, and there have been no late penalties. The annual Form 990 for the year ended June 30, 2025, has been filed by the extended due date.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.5 "Make a single purchase or commitment of greater than $25,000 unless such purchase was explicitly itemized in monitoring reports previously disclosed to the board. Splitting orders and /or paying from two consecutive fiscal years to avoid this limit is not acceptable."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** The Board must specifically approve all single expenditures of more than $25,000 that were not previously disclosed as part of budget monitoring data.

Further, I interpret that individual expenditures paid to a single vendor and, in the aggregate, exceeding $25,000 do not require board approval if they are within the overall projected expense for the fiscal year. As noted in the policy, splitting payments to avoid this limit is not acceptable.

REPORT: During the quarter, no purchase exceeding $25,000 was made that was not specifically budgeted or subsequently approved by the board.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.6 "Solely execute payments in an amount greater than $5,000, or solely execute any payments to himself/herself. Signatures are to be in the priority order of signing as outlined in Policy 4.8.2.C where signatures on checks are required by Board members."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (***Same as the previous report.)*** No checks or electronic fund transfers (EFTs) can be solely executed in an amount greater than $5,000, nor solely executed as payments to the President/CEO.

REPORT: (***Same as the previous report.)*** During this period, no checks for amounts greater than $5,000 have been executed solely, and no payments have been made solely to the President/CEO. Other signatories were as specified in Policy 4.3.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.7 "Acquire, encumber, lease or dispose of real property."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (***Same as the previous report.)*** All decisions regarding the purchase or sale of land or buildings are considered to be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

REPORT: (***Same as the previous report.)*** No real property has been encumbered, acquired, or disposed of during this period.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.8 "Operate without aggressively pursuing material receivables in accordance with commonly accepted practices."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (*Same as the previous report*) I interpret a "reasonable grace period" to be sixty (60) days and "material" to be receivables that, when collected, are of greater value than the cost of collection (including staff time). I interpret "aggressively pursuing" to require regular follow-up in writing, over the phone when all other avenues have been exhausted, and when the cost would benefit the recovery utilizing a collection agency.

REPORT: At the end of this period, no material receivables were outstanding.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.9 "Obtain revenues from sources that are not, in fact and appearance, legal and consistent with the ends policies, mission and values of the organization."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** I interpret this policy as allowing staff to identify and generate new revenue streams and sources without requiring explicit board approval (as long as they meet the "prudence" test). However, "prudence" in this case is further defined to preclude any revenue sources that conflict with our mission and values and thus could provide embarrassment to the organization and its constituents.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** During this period, no revenues have been obtained from sources that are inconsistent with GoRockford's mission and values or would provide embarrassment to GoRockford or its constituents.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.10 "Use restricted funds for purposes other than stated by the contributor or use Board designated funds except as explicitly authorized by the Board."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** This policy requires that we manage finances consistently with generally accepted accounting principles regarding the segregation and use of restricted funds. "Restricted" contributions are monies directed to GoRockford to be used for a specific purpose. Board-designated funds are those funds the board had pre-determined to hold in reserve for specific purposes.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Finances have been managed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and any restricted funds will be reported separately in the balance sheet attached to this report. Funds have only been used for their intended purposes.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.11 "Operate without adequate internal controls over receipts and disbursements to avoid unauthorized payments or material dissipation of assets. The organization shall not have secret funds, and it shall prohibit any unaudited transactions or loans."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report)*** Controls must be in place to ensure all receipts are properly recorded, and disbursements are appropriately authorized. Further, all payments (checks, EFTs, credit card purchases, petty cash, etc.) must have corresponding documentation sufficient to satisfy the auditor. Finally, we may not make unaudited loans of any type.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Internal controls in place are consistent with Board policy and the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) prescribed by the Board-appointed auditors. As part of the annual audit, the independent auditor reviews our internal control procedures in place during the year. The organization does not have secret funds and does not allow unaudited transactions or loans. The most recent FY25 audit reported a clean opinion.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.12 "Pledge any of the assets of the corporation as security within any contracts."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** No assets can be pledged as security within any contracts without board approval.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** During the period, no corporation assets were pledged as security within any contracts.

In June 2020, the board approved the bureau's application for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan in the amount of $75,400. The loan required the bureau to pledge personal property as collateral.

In May 2022, the board approved the bureau's obtaining a loan secured by the building at 310 S. Winnebago St. to finance building improvements. A $100,000 loan was obtained on September 15, 2022, from Illinois Bank & Trust. The loan is secured by the building.

I am reporting compliance.

2.4.13 "Allow the expenditure of organizational funds for travel purposes which are not specifically related to or consistent with the organization's purpose and functions."

CEO INTERPRETATION: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** Compliance with this policy is achieved when all travel expenses can be justified as reasonable investments toward achieving our Priority Results.

REPORT: ***(Same as the previous report.)*** All travel expenditures during the quarter have been consistent with the organization's purpose and function.

I am reporting compliance.

REFER TO MARCH 2026 FINANCIALS
Attachments: Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow. Prepared by: John Groh and Joanne Nold 4/17/26

GO ROCK FORD	**Governing Policy of the** **GoRockford Board of Directors**	
Executive Limitations Policy 2.8 – Communication & Support to the Board		***Management Limitations***

To: Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Management Limitations Policies
Monitoring on Policy 2.8 – Communication & Support to the Board

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.8 – Communication & Support to the Board, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true for the six-month period ending June 2026.

Signed

June 8, 2026

John Groh/President/CEO

POLICY 2.8 – COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT TO THE BOARD

"The President/CEO will not permit the board to be uninformed or unsupported in its work."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) One of the primary obligations of the CEO is to ensure the board has all necessary facts, evidence, knowledge and resources for the fulfillment of its role, as the board has defined it in its governing policies. I submit that the subsequent provisions comprehensively define this policy. Interpretations and reporting data are presented below.

"Accordingly, he or she may not:"

2.8.1 "Neglect to submit monitoring reports (including the President/CEO's policy interpretations, as well as compliance/achievement data) required by the board (see policy 3.4 on Monitoring President/CEO Performance in Board/Staff Linkage) in a timely, accurate and understandable fashion."

CEO INTERPRETATION: *(No changes since last report)* The CEO shall submit monitoring reports in the month designated in policy 3.4. Each report shall include an interpretation of each policy, indicating whether that interpretation is new (noting whether any material changes have been made since the last report), data that is factually accurate, and enough data for the board to make an informed judgment as to whether compliance/achievement is reasonably substantiated. I interpret "timely" to mean the board receives the report in advance of the scheduled board meeting, during which they will review the report. I interpret "understandable" to mean that the information provided, and the logic outlined in the report, would make sense to most people.

REPORT: With one exception, all monitoring reports for the period were submitted within the specified month and distributed to the board prior to board meetings in compliance with policy 4.3.3.c.

- June 17, 2026
  - 2.8 Communication & Support to the Board
  - 2.9 Programs/Events/Services/Logistics
- April 22, 2026
  - 1.2 Enhance Tourism Product (Deferred to July)
  - 2.1 Treatment of Customer & Partner
  - 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
  - 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities
- March 25, 2026
  - 1.0 Global Ends (Revised in January)
  - 1.1 Create Economic Wealth
  - 2.2 Treatment of Staff
- January 28, 2026
  - 1.0 Global Ends (Approval of Revised Policy)
  - 1.3 Communicate with Constituents
  - 2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting
  - 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities

The board has not conveyed any concerns about accuracy or their ability to comprehend the information and data presented. All reports were approved, and in doing so, the board accepted the CEO's interpretations as reasonable and that the reports demonstrated compliance or achievement.

I am reporting non-compliance.

2.8.2 "Let the board be unaware of any actual or anticipated noncompliance with any Ends or Management Limitations policy, regardless of the monitoring schedule set forth by the board."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) The CEO shall notify the board whenever there is an incurred or anticipated violation of Board Ends or Executive Limitations policy. I interpret "in a timely manner" to vary depending on the perceived importance of the non-compliance issue. Where the importance is deemed by me to be serious or potentially damaging to the organization, actual or anticipated non-compliance issues should be reported as soon as they are known. When the importance is deemed to be minor and the period of non-compliance is expected to be brief or related to an ongoing circumstance previously brought to the board's attention, non-compliance should be at least reported in the regularly (or otherwise) scheduled monitoring report.

REPORT: There were no such issues during this reporting period.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.3 "Let the board be without objective background/decision information it periodically requests, or unaware of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal/organizational changes. The Board should be notified in advance of material internal changes, when feasible.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) At its request or when the board is preparing to make policy decisions, I am to submit background information and/or provide opportunities for dialogue with and/or data from industry experts, as requested by the board, on the pros and cons of the options being considered, and/or those otherwise available and in my estimation viable for board consideration. While some bias as CEO is, in my estimation, inevitable, I am obligated to temper any such bias with the presentation of objective information.

Further, I am to keep the board aware of observed industry and/or community trends that may impact favorably or negatively on the organization. In addition to formal reporting on board policies, I am to keep the board apprised of material developments. Material external changes such as major developments in our industry sector, issues with major stakeholders, legal challenges, etc., are to be conveyed to the board no later than the next board meeting, but perhaps sooner than dictated by the situation. The criteria for timeliness of board awareness of issues such as negative media coverage or litigation are based on when the material will become public and/or otherwise impact the organization. I interpret material internal changes to be issues such as significant revisions to strategy, to revenues or expenditures (that are compliant with our financial policies) or personnel changes at or above mid-management.

REPORT: When apprised by the board chair of action items on upcoming agendas, staff and I regularly prepare background information for inclusion in board packets or other communications. We aim to present logical and reasonable options and recommendations, including the pros and cons of each, and to ensure that all new board members are equipped to govern in accordance with approved policies.

In all cases, care is taken to provide information that is as complete and unbiased as possible. The board has not conveyed any concerns about a lack of adequate or objective information.

The board has been informed of any material *external* changes by the next board meeting, or sooner as the situation dictates. The following examples demonstrate compliance January 2026-June 2026):

- On June 5, John invited the board to join IWBC on June 20 for the Grand Re-Opening of Beyer Stadium at Maybelle Blair Park.
- On May 7, John shared the details of the Hard Rock expansion.
- On May 6, John encouraged the board to attend the Hard Rock announcement of the next phase of Hard Rock's development in Rockford.
- On April 24, John invited the board to the inaugural 1834 Alliance Honors & Celebration at the Nordlof Center on June 4.
- On March 24, John shared the exciting news of *Atlantic* article on shifting migration trends; Rockford is mentioned first as the nation's most popular housing market and then highlighted again later as a leading example of why people are choosing Midwest communities.

- On March 10, the board was informed of the final round, which awarded $427,631 to 34 restaurants, bringing the total program investment to $1.4 million in support of 53 local establishments across Winnebago County.
- On January 31, the board was invited to attend the America 250th celebration kick-off press conference at Midway Village on February 6, 2026.
- On January 30, a video was sent to the board of NBC Nightly News re Letters to Santa with Jennifer Furst as Mrs. Claus.

The board has been notified in a timely manner of material *internal* changes. For example, the board is notified in advance of media coverage of the organization (positive or negative), as we are aware of it. The following demonstrates compliance:

- On June 2, John informed the board that Kristen Paul had been selected for the 40 Over 40 Honorees.
- On May 4th, the board was invited to attend the New Festival Announcement News Conference at GoRockford.
- On March 19th, the board was informed of the IHSA Selects Rockford to Host State Boys Soccer Finals in November 2026.
- On January 28, the board was reminded to attend the press conference announcing the 3-year extension of UMB Bank's presenting sponsorship for Stroll on State

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.4 "Let the board be unaware of Board or Board member actions that, in the President/CEO's opinion, are not consistent with the board's own policies on Governance Process and Board/Staff Linkage, particularly in the case of Board or Board member behavior that is detrimental to the work relationship between the board and the President/CEO.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) I am to notify the board chair if I am aware of any board or board members' actions that are inconsistent with the board's own policies, especially if such actions undermine the board/CEO relationship. In the case of perceived non-compliance on behalf of the chair, I will report non-compliance issues directly to the board if the perceived non-compliance is not resolved after discussing the concern with the chair directly.

REPORT: There were no such issues during this reporting period for GoRockford's board.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.5 "Present information in unnecessarily complex or lengthy form or without differentiating among three types of written communications:

a. monitoring
b. decision preparation, and
c. incidental/ "FYI"

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) Correspondence to the board is to be concise and identified as one of the three types listed in the policy. I interpret "monitoring" to be those items connected with the designated monitoring reports. I interpret "decision preparation" to be background material necessary or helpful for decision-making and "incidental" to be information/FYI type material.

REPORT: Information in all correspondence with and materials provided to the board (especially board meeting packets) has been labeled as either monitoring report-related, informational/FYI, or for preparation to make decisions or act. If the communication is urgent or requires immediate action, the content is labeled accordingly. Board meeting agendas are clear and indicate where attachments are included or action is required.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.6 "Allow the Board to be without logistical and administrative support for official board, officer or committee communications and activities."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) As CEO, I am to ensure adequate support for operations of the board, its officers and committees. I interpret "official" to mean those functions dealing with the carrying out of the board's governing responsibilities, including those of its officers and committees. Examples of support include arranging meeting schedules, meeting space, fulfilling communication needs, copying and distributing correspondence and materials, recording minutes, providing refreshments, etc.

REPORT: Staff support for board functions, including production and distribution of board meeting packets, minutes, meeting logistics, and refreshments, and similar arrangements for the work of the board and official board committees, is regularly provided. No concerns to the contrary have been conveyed by the board to the CEO.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.7 "Deal with the board in a way that favors or privileges certain board members over others, except when (a) fulfilling individual requests for information or (b) responding to officers or committees duly charged by the board.

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) This is interpreted as meaning that I am to view the board, collectively, as my superior and am to provide communications about board issues and policy choices to all board members, rather than just to the chair and/or board members I may view as "sympathetic" to my concerns.

The exceptions are the two circumstances stated above as "a" and "b," and I also interpret an exception to be when working with individual board members in their occasional capacities as "volunteer staff members." While I am to pass requests for agenda items to the chair, the background information supporting my request is to be distributed to all board members. I further interpret that this is pertinent only to business dealings, not to personal or social relationships.

REPORT: Monitoring reports, informational content, and background information on action items are distributed to all board members. Significant e-mail exchanges and other conversations have and do take place with individual board members, either as colleagues or pursuant to exceptions set forth in the policy, but this correspondence does not limit the board's awareness or authority.

I am reporting compliance.

2.8.8 "Neglect to supply for the consent agenda those items delegated to the President/CEO yet required by law or contract to be Board approved, along with applicable monitoring information."

CEO INTERPRETATION: (No changes since last report.) The CEO will submit for the board's agenda all items that require board approval when such is mandated by third-party business requirements, the law, or per board policy. When such items are submitted, the background information supporting the action item will include written substantiation of adherence to relevant board policies.

REPORT: Staff regularly executes agreements, contracts, and reports with government and private entities, all within the approved executive limitations policies. No such instances of required consent agenda items have been documented during the time frame of this report.

I am reporting compliance.

Prepared by: John Groh, Leah Ticknor 6/08/2026

Governing Policy of the

GOROCKFORD Board of Directors

Executive Limitations Policy 2.9 – Programs/Events/Services/Logistics ***Management Limitations***

To: GOROCKFORD Board of Directors

From: John Groh, President/CEO

RE: Internal Monitoring Report – Management Limitations Policies
Monitoring on Policy 2.9 – Programs/Events/Services/Logistics

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Management Limitations Policy 2.9 – Programs/Events Services/Logistics, in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in Board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true for the annual period through June 30, 2026.

Signed,

John Groh, President/CEO

June 8, 2026

POLICY 2.9

"With respect to the programs and events produced or services provided by the organization, the President/CEO shall not fail to ensure these programs, events or services exceed community/industry standards for excellence in programming, safety and audience amenities."

CEO INTERPRETATION (No change since last report)**:** I interpret this to mean GoRockford will be informed of and utilize best practices in event planning, regularly evaluate all appropriate programs and events, implement GoRockford service standards and ensure that customer concerns and complaints are addressed promptly and appropriately.

REPORT: GoRockford utilizes systems for event planning, service standards and appropriate safety guidelines when planning or hosting GoRockford events.

GoRockford staff continually seeks educational opportunities to ensure knowledge of best practices in the event planning and tourism industry. Examples of practices incorporated or improved upon in the past year include:

- GoRockford's core service values require that we create an atmosphere of customer focus, whereby the needs of the customer are paramount, and staff has the flexibility, knowledge and procedures in place to meet those needs. The use of budgets, checklists and policies guide planning efforts for programs/events/services.
- GoRockford follows a pre-established written procedure for handling customer/visitor complaints and takes appropriate action. First the complaint is documented and categorized as urgent, GoRockford complaint or industry partner complaint. The category determines the degree of GoRockford involvement. If needed, as dictated by procedures, a task force is then assembled to handle the complaint. There are no written complaints within the timeline of this report.

- GoRockford has a written crisis communication plan in place that includes avenues of communication with visitors should a large-scale emergency arise.
- GoRockford has a written crisis management and communication plan specific to Stroll on State that is reviewed and approved by the City of Rockford Police and Fire departments. Regular meetings our scheduled for large events with emergency departments.
- When necessary, GoRockford employees use outside consultants and coordinate strategic site visits to help examine best practices.

I am reporting compliance.

Accordingly, he or she may not:

2.9.1 “**Fail to produce and implement an operational plan designed to ensure that the programs, events or services are well organized, are safe for all attendees, and run on schedule.”**

CEO INTERPRETATION (No change since last report)**:** I interpret this to mean that when creating and hosting community/stakeholder events, or as related to GoRockford's involvement with events produced by customers/clients, GoRockford must have in place and utilize appropriate plans to ensure GoRockford and staff are prepared, an event is well-planned and runs on time, and all measures are taken to ensure a safe environment.

REPORT: GoRockford staff uses an operational plan and checklist for all GoRockford-hosted programs or events. This ensures the event is well organized, safe, and runs on schedule, as evidenced by the responses to follow-up evaluations that demonstrate GoRockford standards are met.

When serving groups and events, staff use an extensive planning process, including standards for opening ceremonies, welcome bags, information tables, and other standardized systems and instruments. Post-event evaluations ensure servicing standards are met, as exemplified by the following chart below. These numbers reflect no change year over year. Customer satisfaction remains strong.

Feedback From Group Customers

	Overall Satisfaction (Venue Experience) (scale 1/low-5/high)	**Satisfaction with GOROCKFORD Staff** (scale 1/low-5/high)	**Intent to Return**
Meeting/Event Planner Survey FY 26	100% ranked 4-5 (Actual 9)	100% ranked 4-5 0% ranked 3-2 (Actual 9)	87.5%

I am reporting compliance.

2.9.2 “Fail to work actively and cooperatively with venue management, as well as with neighboring property owners/merchants/residents to minimize any inconvenience or other negative impacts caused by the event(s).”

CEO INTERPRETATION (No change since last report)**:** I interpret this to mean that the GoRockford should work in a professional manner to partner for success within the business and tourism community, taking measures to ensure a positive public perception of Bureau programs and services, as well as the local visitor industry.

REPORT: When working with unique and/or large events, GoRockford staff works with venue managers, municipal public works staff, public safety officials, neighborhood representatives, business owners, and local media partners to prepare and proactively plan for event participants. By using checklists, a variety of communication methods, and advance planning meetings, staff members continue to uphold high service standards and take steps to ensure a positive perception of these events.

Other services the GoRockford provides to ensure a successful event include:

- Convention/tournament calendars are updated/distributed monthly to Hotel Managers, attractions, and various organizations in the Rockford Region to inform them of citywide events.
- GoRockford reaches out to local media partners to invite them to press conferences and provides press releases to bring awareness in the community.
- QR codes are provided to attendees to find open locations, hours and specials.
- Tournament-specific webpages are created to further promote the region to attendees.
- Notifications are sent to downtown business owners when tournament or conference events are held at the BMO Center or UW Health Sports Factory.
- GoRockford notifies local restaurants and businesses of upcoming events by distributing a calendar of events and by posting on gorockford.com.
- Work with meeting/event planners to resolve any overlapping events.

There have been no significant concerns raised by venues or neighbors in the past year.

I am reporting compliance.

Prepared by: KP/LA/LT

National Collegiate Table Tennis Championships Returns to Rockford

Tournament set to bring $467,401 in Economic Impact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: April 9, 2026

What: GoRockford and Rockford Park District is pleased to welcome back **2026 National Collegiate Table Tennis Championships**, hosted by the **National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA)**. This national championship will feature more than **250 collegiate athletes** from over **50 colleges and universities** across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico competing for titles in singles, doubles, and team events. Athletes range in age from 17–30 and include both male and female athletes. The 3-day tournament is set to bring $467,401 in economic impact to the region.

When: Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026

Where: Sports Factory 305 S Madison St, Rockford Il 61104

Why: Rockford continues to build momentum as a premier sports tourism destination, and hosting the NCTTA Championships again underscores the region's ability to attract high-level national events. The tournament is expected to bring in over 2,000 players, coaches, and spectators.

The event also highlights the rapid growth of collegiate table tennis, including the return of Puerto Rico teams after a 10-year hiatus. The long-standing event started in 1993 and will be held in Rockford for the third time.

"Hosting events like the NCTTA Championships continues to elevate Rockford's sports tourism brand on a national stage," **said Kara Davis, GoRockford Senior Sales Manager.** "We're proud to welcome top collegiate athletes and showcase our community as a premier destination for national competitive events."

"This facility is a perfect fit for a table tennis tournament, showcasing both the scale and flexibility of the Sports Factory," **said Milton Phillips, Sports Factory Supervisor**. "The open layout, quality playing surfaces, and ability to accommodate multiple courts create an ideal competitive environment for athletes and spectators alike. That versatility, paired with the economic impact of hosting regional and national competitions, is what makes the Sports Factory such an asset for our community."

Other: Spectator Admission is $10 per day or $20 for a weekend pass.

Contact: Willy Leparulo, willy.leparulo@nctta.org , 850.445.0780

-MORE-

About: GoRockford is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, GoRockford strengthens the economic position of the region and provides opportunities for people in our communities. www.gorockford.com

About: The Rockford Park District manages over 170 parks and facilities across more than 4,900 acres and serves over 11.5 million user visits annually. The Rockford Park District improves the quality of life for citizens by providing a vibrant, inclusive, and relevant park system which increases property values, stimulates economic development, creates economic impact, increases positive outcomes for youth, and improves our community's health. A vibrant and relevant park system also protects the environment, employs hundreds of area teens, and brings our diverse community together in unity, through the common love of play. www.rockfordparkdistrict.org

###

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Kara Davis, GoRockford Senior Sales Manager, 815.963.8111, kdavis@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District Communications Manager, 815-298-5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Annual Puri Champions Cup & College Showcase Returns to Rockford Region

Youth Soccer Tournament Set to Bring $1.1 Million in Visitor Spending

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2026

What: GoRockford and Rockford Park District are thrilled to welcome the annual **Puri Champions Cup & College Showcase** back to the Rockford Region. The youth soccer tournament is hosted by Rockford Raptors.

The event will bring 330 teams and more than 16,000 athletes and spectators to the Rockford region. Each team averages 16 players, with both boys and girls teams ranging in age from U8 to U19. Teams are traveling from across the Midwest, including Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana. Due to weather conditions, organizers have expanded the tournament to additional locations.

When: Puri Champions Cup & College Showcase, April 17-19

Where: Mercyhealth Sportscore Two 8800 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park
Mercyhealth Sportscore One 1288 Elmwood Rd. Rockford
Clarence Hicks Sports Complex 2004 Ogilby Rd, Rockford
Rock Valley College 3301 N Mulford Rd, Rockford
Rockford University 5050 E State St, Rockford

Why: The Puri Cup has been hosted in the Rockford Region since 2012.

"We always look forward to hosting one of the area's largest soccer tournaments, especially one that has become a tradition for so many families," **said Louis Mateus, General Manager of Mercyhealth Sportscore Complexes.** "However, this week's significant rainfall required us to adjust game locations because several fields at Mercyhealth Sportscore One are unplayable due to saturated conditions. Situations like this highlight the growing need for turf fields, which provide consistency, reliability, and the ability to keep events on schedule regardless of weather. Thanks to the turf fields at the Rockford Park District's newly renovated Clarence Hicks Sports Complex, along with strong partnerships with Rock Valley College and Rockford University, we were able to accommodate teams and maintain the integrity of the tournament. Events of this scale bring hundreds of athletes and families to our community and serve as an important economic driver for the region, reinforcing the value of continued investment in high-quality, all-weather athletic facilities."

-MORE-

> "The Puri Cup has been a staple event in the Rockford region for more than a decade, thanks to the continued leadership of the Rockford Raptors**," said Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford vice president of sales and service.** "It's a highly anticipated tournament that draws clubs from across the Midwest year after year. We love seeing our community come alive with thousands of athletes and families, and the strong economic impact this weekend brings to the region."

Contact: Frank Mateus, director, Rockford Raptors Soccer Club, 815.505.1590, frankmateus3@gmail.com

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<u>FOR MORE INFORMATION:</u>
Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford Vice President of Sales and Service, 815.489.1664, larellano@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District Communications Manager, 815-298-5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Forest City Frenzy Brings Over 300 Disc Golf Competitors to Rockford

Two-Day Tournament Visitor Spending is Estimated to be $161,206

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 1, 2026

What: GoRockford, Rockford Park District, Rockford Disc Golf Club, Illinois Open Series, and Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), will welcome more than 300 competitors and spectators, who are expected to book 200 hotel room nights, to the region for the 15th annual **IOS #137 Forest City Frenzy**. The A-tier regional disc golf tournament is presented by Discraft and is set to generate an estimated economic impact of **$161,206**.

Players ranging in age from **17 to 71** will travel from across the region to compete in multiple divisions. The Forest City Frenzy tournament continues to draw both new and touring professional players, while also bringing visitors into the community to experience Rockford's growing outdoor recreation scene.

"Events like the Forest City Frenzy are exactly what position Rockford as a leader in sports tourism," **said Kara Davis, GoRockford senior sales manager**. "We're welcoming more than 300 players, along with their friends and families, who are not only competing on incredible courses, but also exploring our restaurants, shops, and attractions. It's a great example of how sports drive economic impact and introduce new visitors to everything our region has to offer."

"We're excited to welcome players and spectators to two Rockford Park District parks, which highlights both the growing popularity of disc golf and the quality of our park amenities," **said Amy McIntyre superintendent of operations.** "Disc golf is a unique activity that supports both physical and mental well-being while encouraging movement, time outdoors, and opportunities to reduce stress and connect with nature. Tournaments like this showcase how parks serve as active, accessible spaces for recreation, tourism, competition, and connection."

When: **Saturday, May 2 – Sunday May 3**

Where: **Anna Page Park**
3202 N Springfield Ave, Rockford

Ingersoll Memorial Park
101 Daisyfield Rd, Rockford

Why: Anna Page Park is widely recognized as one of the top disc golf facilities in the country, featuring multiple course layouts that allow for high-level competition and large-scale events.

-MORE-

Illinois and Iowa Disc Golf Hall of famer Chris Sprague will be competing. He has competed in 513-disc golf events and has 119 career wins.

Contact:
Mike Krupicka, Professional Disc Golf Association Scheduler, ios2026@krupicka.org, 331.444.2477

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Kara Davis, GoRockford, senior sales manager, 815.963.8111, kdavis@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District, communications manager, 815.298.5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

NEWS RELEASE

GoRockford Creates RockYard Music Fest, A New End-of-Summer Celebration

Festival to be held in Davis Park, August 14-15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2026

Rockford, IL – GoRockford is excited to announce the launch of **RockYard Music Fest**, a brand-new, free-to-attend, two-day music and community festival coming to downtown Rockford on Friday and Saturday, **August 14-15, 2026**, at **Davis Park** along the Rock River.

Created as part of **Rockford's America 250** celebrations and in conjunction with **Rockford 815 Day** festivities happening throughout the region, RockYard Music Fest will bring together live music, art, food, games, fireworks, a drone show, family activities, and community experiences designed to celebrate the spirit and energy of Rockford while creating a new summer tradition.

The festival will feature major acts including **Trippin' Billies: A Tribute to Dave Matthews Band** and **One More Time: A Tribute to Daft Punk**, along with local and regional performers, interactive art experiences, throwback competitions, family activities, and community programming throughout the weekend.

"Launching RockYard at the newly renovated Davis Park feels symbolic of the momentum happening in Rockford right now. This festival is about celebrating our community, activating public spaces, supporting local businesses, and creating memorable experiences and events that bring people together," said **John Groh, president/CEO, GoRockford.**

The festival will serve as a capstone event to local America 250 celebrations, with plans to continue growing RockYard Music Fest as an annual community tradition.

"This community has wanted a large-scale summer festival experience for a long time, and we are incredibly excited to finally bring it to downtown Rockford," said **Kristen Paul, executive vice president of GoRockford.** "RockYard is designed to celebrate everything people love about summer, including live music, riverfront energy, food, art, competition, fireworks, a drone show, and unforgettable moments with friends and family. We hope this becomes a tradition people look forward to year after year."

While certain elements of the park will still be under construction, RockYard Music Fest will mark the first major public event hosted at the newly renovated Davis Park.

"Rockford takes tremendous pride in creating experiences that bring people together and celebrate our community," **said Rockford Mayor Thomas McNamara.** "RockYard Music Fest is an exciting addition to the momentum happening in Rockford and another opportunity to showcase the energy, creativity, and spirit of our city. Hosting the first major event at Davis Park makes this moment even more special for our community."

—MORE—

Presenting Sponsor: GoRockford announced that Foresight Bank will serve as the presenting sponsor of the inaugural festival. "We are proud to support the launch of RockYard Music Fest and invest in experiences that bring people together**," said Jeffrey Hultman, Foresight Bank president/Chief Banking Officer**. "Events like this strengthen community connections, support local businesses, and create positive momentum for downtown Rockford. We're excited to help introduce what we believe will become a signature regional event."

Two-Day Live Music Experience
RockYard Music Fest will feature performances throughout the weekend on a main stage at Davis Park, including local, regional, and national acts. Additional band announcements will be released in the coming weeks.

Fireworks and Drone Show
Top festivities will include a Friday night fireworks show over the Rock River, and an end-of-celebration drone show finale on Saturday, sponsored by **Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23.**

Community Competitions
Attendees can sign up for free throwback competitions and challenges throughout the weekend, with prizes awarded to winners. Throwback games will include sack races, pie-eating contests, cake walks, bags tournaments, limbo, Hula Hoop contests, tug-o-war, dizzy bat, wheelbarrow races, and more.

Rockford-Themed Events
RockYard will take place in conjunction with Rockford 815 Day. In 2025, over 125 events and specials were offered by local businesses for the community celebration. RockYard activities will include Rockford trivia, a downtown scavenger hunt, and more. Downtown businesses will be encouraged to host sidewalk sales, offer extended hours, feature themed specials, and host pop-up activations throughout the weekend.

Food and Beverage
The festival will feature a bar-and-grill tent with classic summer favorites, themed drinks, lemon shake-ups, and more. There will also be additional food vendors available. A ticketed pancake breakfast will kick off Saturday morning's festivities, starting at 8 a.m.

Activity Tent
In addition to competitions and interactive experiences throughout the grounds, RockYard will feature an all-ages activity tent with hands-on art activities, including tie-dye, painting, sand art, sculpture, and more. The full schedule will be posted to the RockYard website in the coming weeks.

Public Art
RockYard Music Fest will also celebrate the expansion of public art in Rockford with the official unveiling of a new sculpture near Davis Park. Four sculptures currently on display through the CRE8IV sculpture program will become permanent installations with support from community sponsors.

—MORE—

The installations are part of a partnership involving the Illinois Arts Council, the Dean Alan Olson Foundation, and the John D. Brubaker Family Foundation, continuing efforts to expand public art throughout Rockford.

RockYard Schedule

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 p.m. Grounds Open	**8 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (ticketed, fee)** Wellness Activities on Main Stage Yard Games
4 – 10 p.m. Music on Main Stage RockYard Bar & Grill Yard Games and Competitions Activity Tent	**10 a.m. – 10 p.m.** Music on Main Stage RockYard Bar & Grill Competitions Activity Tent
9:45 p.m. Fireworks	**9:45 p.m.** Drone Show (sponsored by Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23)

RAMP River Run

Festivalgoers are encouraged to start Saturday with the RAMP River Run, featuring a 3K walk/wheel-a-thon, 5K, and half-marathon beginning at 7:30 a.m. Participants can head directly to RockYard afterward for the pancake breakfast and festival activities.

Community Partnerships & Sponsors

RockYard Music Fest is presented by Foresight Bank and supported by the City of Rockford, GoRockford, the America 250 Rockford/Winnebago County committee, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23, Illinois Arts Council, Dean Alan Olson Foundation, John D. Brubaker Family Foundation, Hard Rock Casino Rockford, Aetna Lumber, and additional community organizations and sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for businesses and organizations interested in being part of Rockford's newest summer tradition.

Volunteer Opportunities

GoRockford is currently seeking volunteers, community organizations, and partner groups to help bring RockYard Music Fest to life throughout the weekend. Volunteer registration information can be found at **RockYardMusicFest.com.**

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About: GoRockford is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, GoRockford strengthens the economic position of the region and provides opportunities for people in our communities. www.gorockford.com

FAST FACTS

Top College Ultimate Teams Headed to Rockford for National Championships

Tournament Estimated to Bring in $750,574 to Rockford Region

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2026

What: GoRockford, Rockford Park District, and USA Ultimate will welcome approximately 1,000 student-athletes, coaches, team personnel, families, and fans to the region for **the 2026 USA Ultimate Division I College Championships**. The four-day national championship tournament is expected to generate an estimated economic impact of **$750,574** for the Rockford region.

The event will feature 40 elite college teams (20 men's and 20 women's teams) from across the United States and Canada competing in more than 100 games to determine two divisional national titles.

In addition to championship competition, attendees will also experience a Color of Ultimate showcase game and the presentation of the prestigious Callahan Award. Both championship finals will be broadcast live on ESPN-U.

When: **Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25, 2026**

Where: **Mercyhealth Sportscore Two** 8800 E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park, IL 61111

Why: The USA Ultimate College Championships represent the culmination of the collegiate ultimate season, with more than 400 colleges and universities across North America competing throughout the year for a chance to qualify. Only 40 teams advanced to the Division I Championships.

Rockford has a strong history with USA Ultimate events, previously hosting the Division III College Championships in 2015 and 2018, as well as the USA Ultimate Club National Championships in 2016. The 2026 tournament marks just the second time the Division I Championships have been hosted in Illinois.

"Bringing an event of this caliber to our region is not just a win for sports, it's a celebration of teamwork, passion, and the vibrant energy that collegiate athletics brings," said Kara Davis GoRockford Senior Sales Manager. "We are honored to host some of the most talented young athletes in the nation, and I can't wait for our local fans, families and businesses to experience the excitement and camaraderie that ultimate fosters."

More than 100 games will be played throughout the four-day tournament.
Teams from powerhouse programs including Carleton College, Colorado, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, and Cal Poly qualified in both men's and women's divisions.
Visitors can purchase tickets through the official Division I event website or onsite during the event.

Extensive livestream coverage will be provided through Ultiworld in addition to ESPN-U broadcasts of the finals.

-MORE-

Forest City Frenzy Fast Facts Page 2 of 2

Contact:
Samantha Kehl, USA Ultimate Communications Manager, 309.531.7343, samantha@hq.usaultimate.org

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About: The Rockford Park District manages over 170 parks and facilities across more than 4,900 acres and serves over 11.5 million user visits annually. The Rockford Park District improves the quality of life for citizens by providing a vibrant, inclusive, and relevant park system which increases property values, stimulates economic development, creates economic impact, increases positive outcomes for youth, and improves our community's health. A vibrant and relevant park system also protects the environment, employs hundreds of area teens, and brings our diverse community together in unity, through the common love of play. www.rockfordparkdistrict.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Kara Davis, GoRockford, senior sales manager, 815.963.8111, kdavis@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District, communications manager, 815.298.5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

NEWS RELEASE

GOROCKFORD
Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Rockford to Host National Women's Motorcycle Event

Get Your Groove On 2026 Aims to Make History with World Record Ride Attempt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2026

Rockford, IL – GoRockford is pleased to welcome to the Rockford region **Midwest Women Riders**, a female-only motorcycle community, for its **Get Your Groove On 2026 World Record Female Ride**. Over **700 riders** from across the country are expected to travel to the Rockford region for a three-day celebration held at **Hard Rock Casino Rockford**. The event is expected to generate more than **700 hotel room nights** and an estimated economic impact of **$1.4 million** for the Rockford region.

The highlight of the weekend will be an escorted non-stop **World Record Group Ride** on **Saturday, June 13**, with an official head count and ride beginning at 11 a.m. when Midwest Women Riders will attempt to set the **Guinness Book World Record** for the most females riding at the same time.

“This event is about more than motorcycles,” **said Kara Davis, GoRockford senior sales manager.** It’s about women coming together, building community and making history in the Rockford region. We are proud to support Midwest Women Riders as they welcome riders from across the country for this powerful world record attempt.”

Founded in 2008 by rider and community builder Ellie Rains, Midwest Women Riders was created to bring women together. Midwest Women Riders welcomes all women who ride, as well as those inspired to ride their own motorcycle.

Event highlights: Get Your Groove On 2026 is expected to include sisterhood, speakers, workshops, live entertainment, vendors, a Saturday night party, and an escorted non-stop World Record Group Ride. The female-only event begins on Thursday, June 11 and ends with the group ride and after party on Saturday, June 13.

Schedule highlights: Full schedules, activities and event details are available on https://midwestwomenriders.com/ Tickets for the ride only are available for $30 on the day of the event (cash only). All riders and passengers must be female and 18 years and older. Passengers are welcome, but do not count towards the world record goal.

Saturday, June 13, 2026 - World Record Female Ride Day

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration and check-in open; ride-only ticket sales available (cash only); bike staging begins.
- 10:30 a.m. - Registration closes; ride announcements, prayer, National Anthem and group photo.
- 11:00 AM - Kickstands up; official head count; World Record Female Ride departs Hard Rock Casino.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Kara Davis, GoRockford Senior Sales Manager, 815.505.2408, kdavis@gorockford.com
Ellie Rains, Founder, Midwest Women Riders NFP, mwriders@aol.com

Rockford Welcomes Thousands for 5th Annual Team Illinois Summer Invitational & Showcase

Three-Day Tournament Estimated to Bring 1.8 Million in Economic Impact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: June 26, 2026

What: GoRockford and the Rockford Park District are pleased to welcome the 5th Annual Team Illinois Lacrosse Summer Invitational & Showcase to the Rockford region.

The event begins with the Individual Showcase featuring boys college atheletes, followed by the Summer Invitational Team Tournament. The tournament brings together more than 300 boys' and girls' youth, high school, and college teams from across the Midwest and beyond. Participating teams travel from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Arizona, making this a premier Midwest regional lacrosse tournament.

The event is expected to generate an estimated **$1.8 million** in economic impact, attract approximately **7,500** attendees, and an estimated **1,000 hotel room nights** for the Rockford region.

"Sports tourism continues to be a driving force for our local economy, and we're excited to partner with the Rockford Park District and Team Illinois Lacrosse to host another outstanding event**," said Lindsay Arellano GoRockford vice president of sales and service.** "We look forward to welcoming visitors from across the country and showing them everything the Rockford region has to offer."

"Hosting one of the largest lacrosse tournaments is a testament to the reputation our region has built as a sports tourism destination," **said Louis Mateus, Mercyhealth Sportscore Complexes General Manager.** "Nationally recognized facilities like Mercyhealth Sportscore Two and Mercyhealth Sportscore One are designed to accommodate events of this scale, and our team works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every athlete, coach, and visitor has an exceptional experience. From field operations and traffic management to concessions, guest services, and tournament logistics, we're showcasing why organizations across the country continue to choose Rockford and Loves Park."

When: **Friday, June 26 – Boys Individual College Showcase** (1-7 p.m.)
Saturday, June 27 – Sunday, June 28 – Boys & Girls Summer Invitational Team Tournament

Where: **Mercyhealth Sportscore One** 1288 Elmwood Rd., Rockford, IL
Mercyhealth Sportscore Two 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, IL

Why: The Team Illinois Lacrosse Summer Invitational & Showcase is the organization's largest annual event and provides athletes with the opportunity to compete against top regional competition while showcasing their skills. Team Illinois Lacrosse also hosts a Fall Invitational each year.

Other: Parking is $20 for the weekend.

Team Illinois Lacrosse Fast Facts Page 2 of 2

Contact: Kyle Pepich, kyle@yetilacrosse.com

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About the Rockford Park District: The Rockford Park District improves the quality of life for citizens by providing a vibrant, inclusive, and relevant park system that increases property values, stimulates economic development, creates economic impact, increases positive outcomes for youth, and improves our community's health. A vibrant and relevant park system also protects the environment, employs hundreds of area teens, and brings our diverse community together in unity, through the common love of play.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford Vice President of Sales and Service, 815.489.1664, larellano@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District Communications Manager, 815-298-5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Rockford Welcomes Nation's Top BMX Racers for 2026 Midwest Nationals

Race Weekend Set to Bring Over $800,000 in Economic Impact

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2026

What: GoRockford, Rockford Park District, Rockford BMX, and USA BMX are excited to announce the return of the **2026 USA BMX Midwest Nationals**. As Stop No. 17 on the 2026 USA BMX National Series, the three-day competition will bring riders from across the United States to compete for national rankings and championship points. The event has become a Father's Day tradition for BMX families and is one of the most attended weekends of the year for Rockford BMX.

Rockford BMX has hosted the Midwest Nationals for over 40 years. More than **100 teams** ranging in age from 2 to 87 years old are expected to participate, bringing over **3,500 athletes and fans** to the Rockford region and generating over **2,700 room nights** and an estimated economic impact of **$800,000**.

"The USA BMX Midwest Nationals is one of the biggest weekends of the year for Rockford BMX, **said Garret Rapp, co-track operator and public relations at Rockford BMX.** "Months of preparation go into making sure our facility, volunteers, and staff are ready to welcome thousands of riders and families from across the country. We look forward to showcasing not only our track, but the entire Rockford community. It's exciting to see so many people travel from out of town to experience everything our city has to offer, and we're proud to continue a tradition that has become such an important event for both the sport of BMX and Rockford. Special thanks to our partners Rockford Park District, GoRockford and USA BMX for helping bring 40 years of this event to the city of Rockford."

"Hosting the USA BMX Midwest Nationals for more than 40 years is a testament to Rockford's strength as a premier sports tourism destination**," said Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford vice president of sales & service.** "This event not only brings high-energy competition to our community but also delivers a meaningful economic impact while showcasing the incredible partnership between Rockford BMX, the Rockford Park District, and our local supporters."

When: **Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21**
Friday, Racing begins at 1 p.m.
Saturday, Racing begins at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, Racing begins at 8 a.m.

Where: **Rockford BMX Searls Park 4950 Safford Road, Rockford, IL 61101**

Why: Established as the American Bicycle Association in 1977 and headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, ABA is the nation's largest cycling organization with more than 70,000 members with combined racing and freestyle events at more than 300 sanctioned BMX tracks across the United States and Canada. ABA empowers and elevates the early stages of bicycle development by creating opportunities through facility development, programs, and national events. As a result, ABA has developed a structured blueprint. A cyclist can progress from humble beginnings on a balance bike to becoming a BMX Olympian by establishing these roots.

BMX Midwest Nationals Page 2 of 2

Other: General parking is $10 per day. Admission is free and open to the public\For competitors' registration fees and more information, visit www.rockfordbmx.com.

Contact: Garret Rapp, Rockford BMX Public Relations Director: 815.608.6158

About GoRockford: GoRockford is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, GoRockford strengthens the economic position of the region and provides opportunities for people in our communities. **www.gorockford.com**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Lindsay Arellano, GoRockford Vice President of Sales & Service: 815.489.1653 or larellano@gorockford.com
Laura Gibbs-Green, Rockford Park District Communications Manager, 815-298-5496, lauragibbsgreen@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Todd Cagnoni, City Administrator

RE: Proposed funding of $300,000 to support the establishment of a Senior Center in partnership with Living Well Center of Northern Illinois located at 1111 South Alpine Road. $100,000 annually over a period of three years from casino funds.

DATE: August 5, 2026

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize funding in the amount of $300,000 to support the initial operation of a Senior Center serving the residents of Rockford in partnership with the Living Well Center of Northern Illinois. This investment will assist in operational costs to provide a centralized facility for health, wellness, recreation, and social connection for older adults, improving quality of life and supporting healthy aging in the community. The Living Well Center is recently established not-for-profit governed by a multidisciplinary board.

Rockford's population of residents aged 60 and older continues to grow, representing more than 20% of the city's population. Many older adults face challenges related to isolation, mobility, access to nutrition, and limited opportunities for social engagement.

Currently, senior services in Rockford are provided across multiple nonprofit and faith-based organizations without a centralized hub. Stakeholders, including local seniors, social service providers, and healthcare partners have expressed strong support for establishing a dedicated Senior Center to coordinate programming, offer accessible community space, and connect residents with resources.

The proposed Senior Center will be a collaborative hub providing daily programs including but not limited to; programs focused on fitness, nutrition, and health education, social and recreational activities to reduce isolation, information and referral services for benefits, housing, and transportation, space for community partners and agencies to host workshops and clinics. This initiative aligns with the City's strategic goals to enhance livability for all residents and promote equitable access to services.

Upon approval, the City will provide funding to Living Well Center in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) annually for a period of three years not to exceed a total amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($300,000) for operational costs related to establishment of a Senior Center. Funds would be provided from Casino Economic Development Funds.

Rockford, Illinois Date: August 17, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:

Council Members:

The Committee on Planning and Development, to whom was referred the matter of the approval of the proposed Funding Agreement with Living Well Center of Northern Illinois in the amount of $100,000 annually for a period of three years not to exceed a total amount of $300,000 to support the establishment of a Senior Center located at 1111 South Alpine Road, hereby begs leave to report **recommending approval** of the request as recommended.

____
Janessa Neal (Chair)

____
Tim Durkee (Vice Chair)

____
Karen Hoffman

____
Dawn Granath

____
Gina Meeks

Committee Action Taken: August 10, 2026

Neal:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Durkee:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Hoffman:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Granath:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Meeks:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____

FUNDING AGREEMENT

THIS FUNDING AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into as of ____________, 2026 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the CITY OF ROCKFORD, an Illinois municipal corporation (the "City"), and THE LIVING WELL CENTER OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation ("Recipient"), with a principal address of 1111 South Alpine Road, Suite 100. The City and Recipient are collectively referred to as the "Parties."

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the public benefit of providing older adults with opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, wellness, recreation, and access to community resources; and

WHEREAS, Recipient proposes to establish and operate a senior center known as The Living Well Center of Northern Illinois at 1111 South Alpine Road, Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois (the "Center"); and

WHEREAS, Recipient is a separate entity from the Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging ("NIAAA"), but intends to operate in partnership with NIAAA and other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Recipient has submitted a first-year operating budget of Two Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($210,000), consisting of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) in requested City funding and One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($110,000) from non-City sources; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to provide up to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($300,000) from available casino-related revenues, payable in three annual installments of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000), to support operation of the Center during the three-year funding period;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

1. RECITALS. The foregoing recitals are incorporated into and made part of this Agreement.

2. PROJECT.

A. Recipient shall establish and continuously operate the Center at 1111 South Alpine Road, Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois, substantially in accordance with the project description attached as Exhibit A and the annual operating budget attached as Exhibit B (collectively, the "Project").

B. The Center shall provide regular programming and services for older adults, including opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, wellness, recreation, technology assistance, and community engagement. Membership and general registration shall be free to participants, except that Recipient may charge reasonable fees for optional special events, materials, meals, or third-party programs if disclosed in advance and applied consistently.

C. Recipient shall maintain all rights necessary to occupy and operate the Center at the Project location throughout the Term. Any relocation of the Center requires the City's prior written approval.

D. NIAAA is not a party to this Agreement. Recipient remains solely responsible for performance of this Agreement notwithstanding any partnership, contribution, or service arrangement with NIAAA or any other third party.

3. CITY FUNDING.

A. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, approval by the Rockford City Council, lawful appropriation, and availability of the identified funding source, the City shall provide Recipient an aggregate amount not to exceed Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($300,000) (the "City Funds").

B. The City Funds shall be paid in three installments of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) each: (i) the first installment following the Effective Date and satisfaction of the conditions in Section 4; (ii) the second installment approximately twelve (12) months after the first installment; and (iii) the third installment approximately twenty-four (24) months after the first installment.

C. No payment is earned merely by the passage of time. Each installment is conditioned on Recipient's continuing compliance with this Agreement and the City's acceptance of the documentation required for that installment.

D. The City's obligation shall not exceed the amount approved and available for the applicable funding year. Recipient acknowledges that the City has no obligation to provide funding beyond the maximum amount stated in this Agreement or after expiration or termination of this Agreement.

4. CONDITIONS TO PAYMENT.

A. Before the first installment, Recipient shall provide: (1) an executed Agreement; (2) evidence of its legal existence and authority to enter into this Agreement; (3) evidence of its federal tax-exempt status, if applicable; (4) evidence of a lease, license, or other enforceable right to occupy the Project location for the applicable funding period; (5) certificates of insurance required by Section 12; (6) an adopted annual operating budget; and (7) documentation reasonably acceptable to the City showing committed non-City funding of at least One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($110,000) for the first funding year.

B. Before the second and third installments, Recipient shall provide the annual report required by Section 8, an updated annual operating budget, current insurance certificates, evidence of continued occupancy of the Project location, and documentation reasonably acceptable to the City demonstrating receipt or enforceable commitment of at least One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($110,000) in non-City funding for the upcoming funding year.

C. The City may request reasonable supplemental documentation before approving any installment. The City's review or payment does not constitute approval of any expenditure that is inconsistent with this Agreement.

5. NON-CITY FUNDING.

A. Recipient shall secure at least One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars ($110,000) in non-City funding for each funding year. Eligible non-City funding may include private philanthropic support, NIAAA partnership contributions, community campaign proceeds, corporate sponsorships, program and event revenue, and other lawful sources approved by the City.

B. In-kind contributions shall not count toward the annual non-City funding requirement unless the City approves them in writing and Recipient provides a reasonable valuation and supporting documentation.

C. Recipient shall promptly notify the City if any material source of non-City funding is withdrawn, materially reduced, restricted in a manner inconsistent with the Project, or otherwise becomes unavailable. The City may reduce, defer, or withhold a future installment if Recipient does not satisfy the annual non-City funding requirement.

6. USE OF CITY FUNDS.

A. Recipient shall use City Funds solely for reasonable and necessary operating costs of the Center consistent with Exhibit B, including personnel, payroll taxes and benefits, occupancy costs, program supplies, hospitality, insurance, accounting and compliance, legal services, communications, outreach, office supplies, volunteer support, equipment maintenance, and an operating contingency.

B. Recipient shall not use City Funds for: (1) costs incurred before the Effective Date unless specifically approved in writing by the City; (2) costs unrelated to the Center; (3) debt service, fines, penalties, judgments, or late fees; (4) political activity, lobbying, or contributions; (5) religious worship, instruction, or proselytization; (6) distributions to officers, directors, members, or affiliated entities other than reasonable compensation or reimbursement for documented services; or (7) any unlawful purpose.

C. Recipient may reallocate amounts among budget categories when reasonably necessary to operate the Center, provided that any material change to the scope of the Project or any reallocation exceeding twenty percent (20%) of a budget category requires prior written approval by the City Administrator or designee.

D. Any City Funds remaining unspent at expiration or termination, or determined by the City to have been used contrary to this Agreement, shall be returned to the City within thirty (30) days after written demand.

7. TERM AND OPERATIONS.

A. The term of this Agreement begins on the Effective Date and continues until ninety (90) days after the third anniversary of the first installment, unless earlier terminated in accordance with this Agreement (the "Term").

B. Recipient shall open the Center to the public within [____] days after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain regular and reliable hours of operation appropriate to the Project. Recipient shall promptly notify the City of any closure lasting more than five (5) consecutive business days, other than customary holidays or temporary closures caused by emergencies.

C. Recipient shall administer the Project in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner and shall use commercially reasonable efforts to sustain operation of the Center after expiration of City funding.

8. REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE.

A. Within sixty (60) days after each anniversary of the first installment, and within sixty (60) days after the end of the Term, Recipient shall submit a report to the City describing Project activities during the preceding year.

B. Each report shall include, at a minimum: (1) a narrative summary of programs and services; (2) operating hours and material closures; (3) aggregate participation and attendance information; (4) a schedule of City Funds received and expended by budget category; (5) a schedule of non-City funding received or committed; (6) material partnerships and volunteer participation; (7) an explanation of material variances from the annual budget; and (8) any other information reasonably requested by the City to evaluate compliance and public benefit.

C. Recipient shall promptly report any material adverse event affecting the Project, including loss of occupancy, suspension of operations, loss of tax-exempt status, insolvency, dissolution, significant litigation, fraud, theft, or misuse of Project funds.

9. RECORDS, INSPECTION, AND AUDIT.

A. Recipient shall maintain complete and accurate books, records, invoices, receipts, payroll records, bank records, contracts, and other documentation sufficient to verify compliance with this Agreement and the use of City Funds. Recipient shall maintain City Funds in a manner that permits them to be separately identified in Recipient's accounting records.

B. Recipient shall retain Project records for at least five (5) years after the later of final payment or termination of this Agreement, or longer if required by law or if an audit, claim, or dispute remains pending.

C. Upon reasonable notice, the City and its authorized representatives may inspect the Center and examine, copy, and audit Project records. Recipient shall cooperate fully with any review or audit. If an audit identifies unsupported or ineligible expenditures, Recipient shall reimburse the City for those amounts and, if the unsupported or ineligible amount exceeds five percent (5%) of the installment reviewed, for the City's reasonable audit costs.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND PERMITS.

A. Recipient shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, permits, and licensing requirements in operating the Center and performing this Agreement, including requirements concerning employment, accessibility, public accommodations, charitable organizations, health and safety, and protection of personal information.

B. Recipient is solely responsible for obtaining and maintaining all permits, approvals, inspections, certificates of occupancy, and licenses necessary for the Center. The City's execution of this Agreement does not constitute zoning, building, licensing, or regulatory approval.

11. INDEPENDENT ENTITY; NO AGENCY.

A. Recipient is an independent entity and not an officer, employee, agent, partner, joint venturer, or representative of the City. Recipient has exclusive control over its employees, contractors, volunteers, methods, and operations, subject to the results and requirements stated in this Agreement.

B. Recipient shall not represent that the City manages, sponsors, endorses, or is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Center, except that Recipient may accurately acknowledge the City's financial support.

12. INSURANCE.

A. Throughout the Term, Recipient shall maintain, at its expense, insurance issued by insurers authorized to do business in Illinois, including: (1) commercial general liability insurance with limits of not less than $1,000,000 per occurrence and $2,000,000 aggregate; (2) workers' compensation insurance as required by law and employers' liability insurance with limits of not less than $500,000; (3) automobile liability insurance with a combined single limit of not less than $1,000,000 if vehicles are used in connection with the Project; and (4) directors and officers or management liability insurance with limits of not less than $1,000,000.

B. The City and its officials, officers, employees, and agents shall be named as additional insureds on the commercial general liability and automobile liability policies, on a primary and noncontributory basis, to the extent available. Recipient shall provide certificates of insurance and, upon request, copies of relevant endorsements. Policies shall provide at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice of cancellation or material reduction in coverage, except ten (10) days for nonpayment of premium, to the extent permitted by the insurer.

13. INDEMNIFICATION.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Recipient shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City and its officials, officers, employees, and agents from claims, damages, liabilities, losses, and reasonable attorney fees arising out of or relating to Recipient's operation of the Center or performance of this Agreement, but only to the extent caused by the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of Recipient or its officers, employees, contractors, agents, or volunteers. This Section survives expiration or termination of the Agreement.

14. NONDISCRIMINATION.

Recipient shall not discriminate in employment, participation, membership, services, or benefits on any basis prohibited by applicable federal, state, or local law. Recipient shall make the Center and its programs reasonably accessible to persons with disabilities as required by law.

15. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

Recipient shall maintain and enforce a written conflict-of-interest policy applicable to its directors, officers, employees, and agents. Recipient shall promptly disclose to the City any actual or potential conflict of interest involving the Project or City Funds and shall take corrective action reasonably required by the City. No City official or employee shall have a prohibited financial interest in this Agreement.

16. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES.

A. An event of default occurs if Recipient: (1) uses City Funds for an unauthorized purpose; (2) fails to perform a material obligation under this Agreement; (3) submits materially false or misleading information; (4) ceases operation of the Center without City approval; (5) loses the legal right to occupy the Project location; (6) becomes insolvent, dissolves, or files or has filed against it a bankruptcy proceeding that is not dismissed within sixty (60) days; or (7) violates applicable law in a manner materially affecting the Project or the City.

B. Except where immediate action is reasonably necessary to protect public funds or safety, the City shall provide written notice of default and thirty (30) days to cure. If a default cannot reasonably be cured within thirty (30) days, Recipient shall begin cure within that period and diligently complete it within a time approved by the City.

C. Upon default, the City may suspend or withhold payments, require corrective action, reduce future installments, terminate this Agreement, recover improperly used or unsupported City Funds, exercise setoff, or pursue any other remedy available at law or in equity. Remedies are cumulative.

17. TERMINATION.

A. The City may terminate this Agreement for default as provided in Section 16. The City may also terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days' written notice if City Funds become legally unavailable or if continued performance would violate applicable law.

B. Recipient may request termination by written notice explaining the basis for the request and providing a closeout accounting. Termination by Recipient is effective only upon written acceptance by the City.

C. Upon termination, Recipient shall cease incurring costs chargeable to City Funds, provide a final report and accounting, return all unspent or improperly used City Funds, and preserve records as required by this Agreement. Termination does not release either Party from obligations accrued before termination.

18. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBCONTRACTING.

Recipient shall not assign this Agreement, transfer control of the Project, or delegate substantially all Project responsibilities without the City's prior written approval. Recipient remains responsible for the acts and omissions of its contractors, partners, and other third parties.

19. NOTICES.

All formal notices under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered personally, by nationally recognized overnight carrier, or by certified United States mail, return receipt requested, to the following addresses, or to any replacement address designated by written notice:

If to the City:	If to Recipient:
City Administrator City of Rockford 425 East State Street Rockford, Illinois 61104 with a copy to: Legal Director City of Rockford 425 East State Street Rockford, Illinois 61104	The Living Well Center of Northern Illinois Attn: [________________] [________________________] [________________________]

20. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

A. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including its exhibits, constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties regarding the City Funds and supersedes prior discussions, proposals, and understandings concerning the same subject.

B. Amendments. This Agreement may be amended only by a written instrument executed by authorized representatives of both Parties and approved as required by law.

C. Waiver. A waiver is effective only if in writing and applies only to the specific matter waived. Delay or failure to enforce a provision does not waive future enforcement.

D. Severability. If any provision is held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions remain in effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.

E. Governing Law and Venue. Illinois law governs this Agreement. Venue for any action arising from this Agreement shall lie in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County, Illinois, or the federal district court having jurisdiction over Winnebago County, as applicable.

F. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is for the benefit of the Parties only and creates no rights in any third party, including NIAAA, Project participants, contractors, donors, or partners.

G. Counterparts and Electronic Signatures. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by electronic signature, each of which is deemed an original and all of which constitute one instrument.

H. Authority. Each person signing this Agreement represents that the person is authorized to bind the Party on whose behalf the signature is made.

I. Order of Precedence. If there is a conflict among this Agreement and its exhibits, the body of this Agreement controls, followed by Exhibit B and then Exhibit A.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

CITY OF ROCKFORD, **an Illinois municipal corporation**	**THE LIVING WELL CENTER OF** **NORTHERN ILLINOIS**
By: ______________________________ Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor	By: ______________________________ Name: ____________________________ Title: _____________________________

ATTEST:

____
Angela Hammer, Legal Director

ATTEST:

____
Name/Title: _________________________

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Living Well Center of Northern Illinois will operate as a community-based senior center at 1111 South Alpine Road, Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois. The Center is intended to provide a welcoming location where older adults can build social connections, participate in lifelong learning, support physical and emotional wellness, obtain practical assistance, and engage with community partners.

A. CORE PROGRAM ELEMENTS.

1. Regular weekday programming, with periodic evening or weekend events and seminars.

2. Social and recreational activities, including conversation groups, games, clubs, arts, music, and community meals or refreshments.

3. Wellness activities, including age-appropriate movement, fitness, healthy aging education, and related community presentations.

4. Lifelong-learning opportunities, including lectures, technology assistance, financial education, travel or cultural programming, and creative workshops.

5. Community-resource connections and programming delivered with NIAAA, local educational institutions, health-care providers, nonprofits, volunteers, and other partners.

6. Free membership and general registration, subject to reasonable optional fees permitted by Section 2.B of the Agreement.

B. OPERATIONAL APPROACH.

Recipient anticipates a lean staffing model supported by volunteers and community partnerships. Programming may evolve based on participant needs, available partnerships, and demonstrated demand, provided that the Center continues to deliver the core public benefits described above.

C. FACILITY.

The Center is expected to include accessible gathering, program, hospitality, and classroom or meeting areas appropriate for the activities described in this Exhibit. Conceptual images and sample calendars supplied during the City's review are illustrative and do not create a warranty or fixed design requirement unless separately approved in writing by the City.

EXHIBIT B

FIRST-YEAR OPERATING BUDGET AND REVENUE PLAN

Operating Budget	Annual Cost
Executive Director	$75,000
Receptionist	$37,000
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	$13,500
Rent, Utilities & Cleaning Services	$29,000
Coffee Bar Equipment Lease	$5,500
Program Supplies & Activity Materials	$8,000
Coffee, Refreshments & Hospitality	$5,000
Insurance (Liability, D&O, Property, Workers' Compensation)	$9,000
Accounting & Annual Compliance	$4,000
Legal Services	$2,500
Internet & Phone	$2,500
Marketing & Community Outreach	$5,000
Office Supplies	$1,500
Staff Development & Volunteer Support	$2,500
Equipment Maintenance	$2,500
Operating Reserve & Contingency	$7,500
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	**$210,000**

Revenue Source	Amount
City of Rockford Investment	$100,000
Committed Private Philanthropic Support	$50,000
NIAAA Partnership Contribution	$17,500
Founding Community Campaign	$25,000
Corporate Sponsorship Initiative	$10,000
Program & Event Revenue	$5,000
Community Support & Merchandise Sales	$2,500
TOTAL REVENUE	**$210,000**

Budget Notes. This first-year budget is incorporated for purposes of identifying anticipated eligible costs and revenue sources. Recipient shall submit an updated budget before each subsequent installment. The City's annual contribution shall not exceed $100,000, and Recipient's required annual non-City funding shall be not less than $110,000 unless amended in writing.

LIVING WELL CENTER OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

CITY OF ROCKFORD FUNDING BRIEF

Request for Reconsideration of Previously Approved ARPA Funding

Prepared for Mayor Tom McNamara and the Rockford City Council

---

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Living Well Center of Northern Illinois respectfully requests reconsideration of the previously approved $300,000 ARPA allocation to support operating expenses during the Center's first three years of operation.

The funding was previously approved by the Rockford City Council and was later withdrawn when our chosen location changed. Since that vote, the project has secured a more sustainable location, strengthened community partnerships, obtained significant outside funding, and moved substantially closer to opening.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Location:
1111 South Alpine Road, Suite 100
Rockford, Illinois 61108

Facility Size:
5,000 square feet

Target Opening Date:
December 4, 2026

Facility Features:
- Multipurpose auditorium with capacity for 50 participants
- Flexible classroom space divisible into three separate classrooms
- Fitness center designed for a full eGym circuit
- Dedicated art studio
- Community café and gathering space
- Card and game room (The Vault)

OUR MISSION

The Living Well Center exists to help older adults remain connected, active, engaged, and thriving through lifelong learning, wellness programs, social opportunities, volunteerism, and meaningful community connections.

THE REQUEST

$300,000 in ARPA funding over three years

Year 1: $100,000
Year 2: $100,000
Year 3: $100,000

These funds will support staffing, programming, outreach, and operational expenses during the critical launch period.

WHY NOW?

Today, the project has:

- Secured a permanent location
- Established nonprofit governance
- Secured state infrastructure funding
- Developed community partnerships
- Completed facility planning
- Advanced lease negotiations
- Established a realistic sustainability model

WHY THE LIVING WELL CENTER MATTERS

Approximately 25,000 adults between the ages of 55 and 85 live independently throughout the Rockford area.

While many community resources exist, there is currently no dedicated community hub designed to bring together lifelong learning, fitness, arts, technology education, social engagement, and volunteer opportunities under one roof.

As our community ages, creating opportunities for connection becomes increasingly important.

Research consistently demonstrates that social isolation among older adults is associated with:

- Increased healthcare utilization
- Higher rates of depression and anxiety
- Increased risk of cognitive decline
- Reduced quality of life
- Greater caregiver burden on families

The Living Well Center was designed to address these challenges proactively.

THE VISION

The Center will provide a welcoming destination where older adults can:

- Build meaningful friendships
- Participate in fitness and wellness activities
- Explore arts and creative programming
- Learn new technology skills
- Attend educational programs
- Volunteer and remain engaged in the community
- Age with dignity, purpose, and connection

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Living Well Center is already building strong partnerships throughout the region.

Current partners and supporters include:

- Rockford University
- Rockford Public Library
- AARP Tax-Aide volunteers
- Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
- State Senator Steve Stadelman
- State Representative Dave Vella

These partnerships will bring programming, educational opportunities, resources, and services directly to older adults in a single accessible location.

A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

The idea for the Living Well Center emerged from years of caring for older adults in Rockford.

As a physician, I have seen firsthand that the patients who remain connected to their community often thrive. Those who become isolated frequently struggle with declining physical health, worsening mental health, and loss of independence.

I also understand the importance of belonging on a personal level. When I first moved to Rockford more than twenty years ago, I knew very few people in the community. Building relationships transformed my experience of this city.

The Living Well Center is founded on a simple belief:

Every person deserves a place where they belong, continue learning, remain active, and build meaningful relationships.

ACCOUNTABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

MEASURABLE GOALS

Year One

- 1,000 members
- 50 daily participants by year-end
- 15 classes/sessions per week
- Hundreds of educational, wellness, and social programs annually

Year Two

- 1,500 members
- Expanded programming and community partnerships
- Increased volunteer opportunities and member engagement

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Living Well Center is designed to become financially sustainable through a diversified funding model.

Revenue Sources

- Memberships ($25 per month)
- Foundation grants
- Private and Corporate sponsorships
- Annual fundraising campaigns
- Community donations
- Program partnerships

LEVERAGING OUTSIDE INVESTMENT

The City's investment will unlock and complement significant external support already secured.

Funding and Commitments Secured:

- $250,000 in state infrastructure funding
- $150.000 in Private & Corporate Founding Campaign
- $50,000 in operational funding
- $17,000 contribution from the Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
- Landlord commitment to absorb buildout costs exceeding $250,000

This demonstrates broad confidence in the project's viability and community value.

LEADERSHIP

The Living Well Center is governed by a volunteer board that brings expertise in healthcare, engineering, education, and community advocacy.

Current board leadership includes:

- Physician
- Engineer
- Retired College Professor
- Retired Nurse and Community Advocate

This multidisciplinary leadership team provides strong oversight, accountability, and community credibility.

CONCLUSION

The Living Well Center represents an opportunity to create a lasting community asset for Rockford's older adults.

The project has secured a location, developed partnerships, obtained outside funding, and established a clear path toward sustainability.

The requested ARPA funding will help transform a proven vision into a reality that serves thousands of older adults for years to come.

We respectfully request restoration of the previously approved $300,000 ARPA allocation and look forward to partnering with the City of Rockford to build a stronger, healthier, and more connected community.

LIVING WELL CENTER OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

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ACCOUNTABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

MEASURABLE GOALS

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The Living Well Center
of Northern Illinois

A community for connection, learning, and aging well.

First-Year Operating Budget & Revenue Plan

Operating Budget	Annual Cost
Executive Director	$75,000
Receptionist	$37,000
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	$13,500
Rent, Utilities & Cleaning Services	$29,000
Coffee Bar Equipment Lease	$5,500
Program Supplies & Activity Materials	$8,000
Coffee, Refreshments & Hospitality	$5,000
Insurance (Liability, D&O, Property, Workers Comp)	$9,000
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Legal Services	$2,500
Internet & Phone	$2,500
Marketing & Community Outreach	$5,000
Office Supplies	$1,500
Staff Development & Volunteer Support	$2,500
Equipment Maintenance	$2,500
Operating Reserve & Contingency	$7,500
Total Operating Budget	**$210,000**

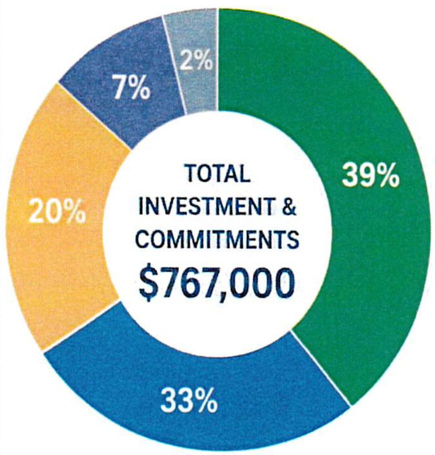
Revenue Source	Amount
City of Rockford Investment	$100,000
Committed Private Philanthropic Support	$50,000
NIAAA Partnership Contribution	$17,500
Founding Community Campaign	$25,000
Corporate Sponsorship Initiative	$10,000
Program & Event Revenue	$5,000
Community Support & Merchandise Sales	$2,500
Total Revenue	**$210,000**

Key Highlights: Membership and registration are free for all participants. Only two employees in Year One, maximizing efficiency and volunteer engagement. Programming will rely heavily on community partnerships and volunteers. The City's investment leverages an additional $110,000 from private, partnership, sponsorship, and community support sources.

LIVING WELL CENTER OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

A SHARED INVESTMENT IN A STRONGER, HEALTHIER ROCKFORD

TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT & COMMITMENTS



- **CITY OF ROCKFORD ARPA REQUEST** — $300,000 — 39%
  Over 3 years ($100,000 per year)
- **STATE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING** — $250,000 — 33%
  Secured through Senator Stadelman
- **PRIVATE & CORPORATE FOUNDING CAMPAIGN** — $150,000 — 20%
  Seeking private and corporate donations
- **OPERATIONS FUNDING** — $50,000 — 7%
  Secured
- **NIAAA CONTRIBUTION** — $17,000 — 2%
  Northern Illinois Area Agency on Aging

FUNDING SOURCES OVERVIEW

SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	SHARE
City of Rockford ARPA Request	Operating support over 3 years ($100,000 per year)	$300,000	39%
State Infrastructure Funding	Secured through Senator Stadelman	$250,000	33%
Private & Corporate Founding Campaign	Seeking private and corporate donations	$150,000	20%
Operations Funding	Secured	$50,000	7%
NIAAA Contribution	Northern Illinois Area Agency on Aging	$17,000	2%
TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT & COMMITMENTS		$767,000	100%

THE CITY'S $300,000 INVESTMENT REPRESENTS ABOUT 39% OF TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING, LEVERAGING $467,000+ FROM STATE, PRIVATE, NONPROFIT, AND PARTNER SOURCES.

HOW CITY ARPA FUNDS WILL BE USED OVER 3 YEARS

40%	STAFFING	Executive Director, Receptionist, Activity Coordinator
25%	PROGRAMS & SERVICES	Classes, workshops, fitness, education, arts, technology, social activities
20%	OUTREACH & MARKETING	Community awareness, membership growth, partnership development
10%	OPERATIONS	Rent, utilities, insurance, supplies, technology, staffing support
5%	RESERVE	Financial stability and long-term sustainability

THE IMPACT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

- **SERVING A GROWING POPULATION** — Approximately 25,000 adults ages 55–85 in the Rockford area
- **IMPROVING HEALTH & WELL-BEING** — Promoting physical, mental, and social well-being
- **BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** — Reducing isolation and creating a true sense of belonging
- **SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE** — Helping older adults remain active, engaged, and in their homes longer
- **STRENGTHENING ROCKFORD** — Engaged residents contribute to a stronger community

TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A PLACE WHERE OLDER ADULTS BELONG, THRIVE, AND CONTINUE TO MAKE ROCKFORD STRONGER. *Thank You for Investing in Our Community!*

LIVING WELL CENTER

OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

SAMPLE EVENT CALENDAR

MONDAY *Wellness & New Beginnings*		TUESDAY *Creativity & Lifelong Learning*		WEDNESDAY *Technology & Connection*		THURSDAY *Wellness & Discovery*		FRIDAY *Community Celebration*	
9:00 AM	Community Coffee & Conversation	9:00 AM	Walking Club	9:00 AM	Coffee & Conversation	9:00 AM	Walking Club	9:00 AM	Community Coffee Hour
10:00 AM	Chair Yoga	10:00 AM	Art Studio Open Session	10:00 AM	Balance & Strength Training	10:00 AM	Open Art Studio	10:00 AM	Tai Chi
11:00 AM	Technology Basics (Partnership with the Rockford Public Library)	11:00 AM	Healthy Aging Lecture	11:00 AM	Technology Basics	11:00 AM	Brain Fitness Workshop	11:00 AM	Book Club
12:00 PM		12:00 PM	Brown Bag Community Lunch	12:00 PM		12:00 PM	Community Bingo	12:00 PM	Community Brown Bag Lunch
1:00 PM	Watercolor Studio	1:00 PM	Cards & Games in The Vault	1:00 PM	Rockford History Project	1:00 PM		1:00 PM	Travel Club
2:00 PM	Intergenerational Reading Hour (Local students and grandparents)	2:00 PM	Craft Workshop	2:00 PM	Tech Help Desk	2:00 PM	Family History Workshop	2:00 PM	Friday Speaker Series: Financial health after retirement
3:00 PM	eGym Orientation	3:00 PM	Fitness Circuit	3:00 PM	eGym Orientation	3:00 PM	Fitness Circuit	3:00 PM	Make a birdhouse at the art studio
4:00 PM	New Member Welcome Gathering Large	4:00 PM	Open Game Room	4:00 PM	Community Connections Hour	4:00 PM	Open Game Room at The Vault	4:00 PM	Member Social

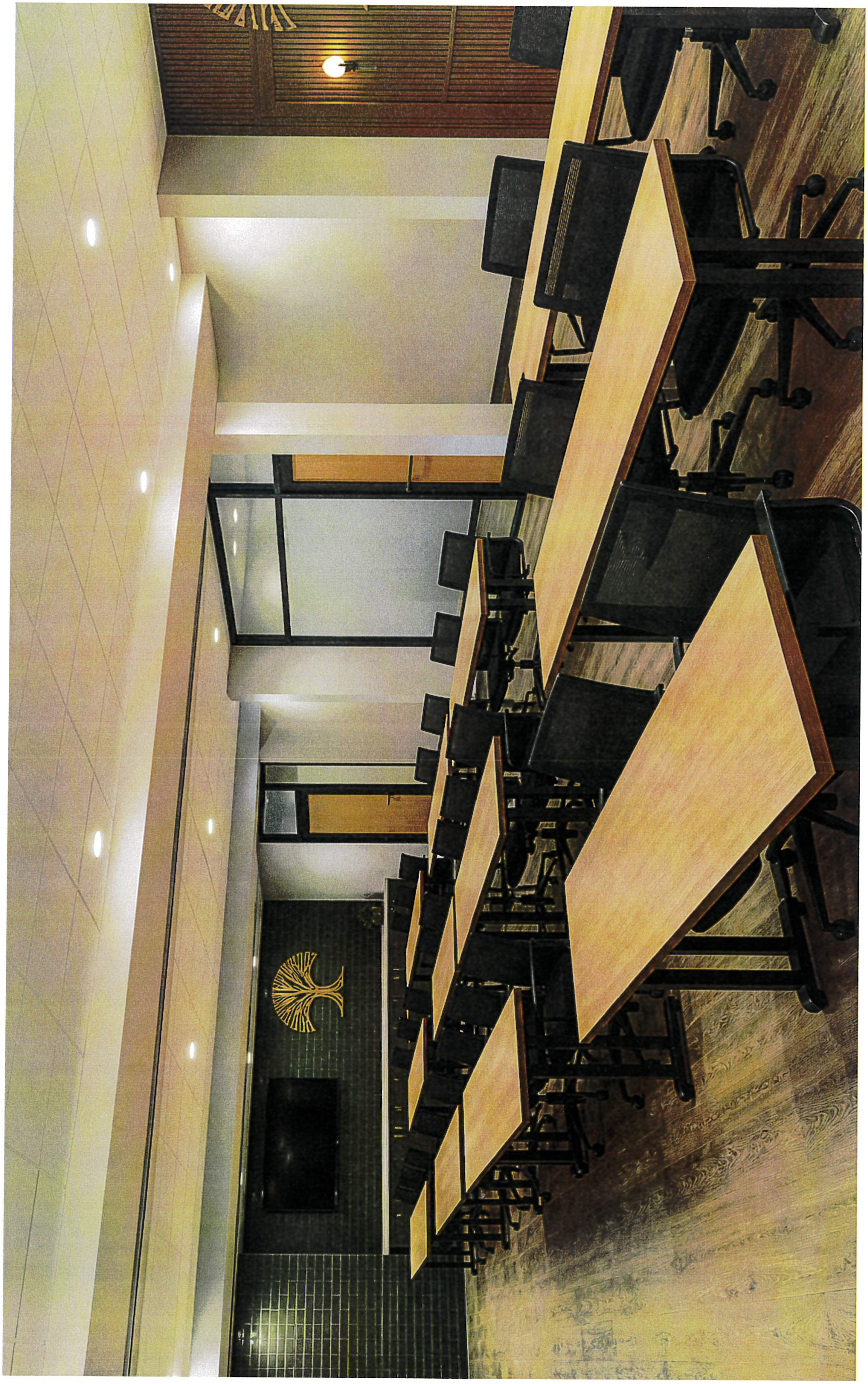
FEATURED SATURDAY EVENT

Living Well Seminar Series
10:00 AM – Noon
The Six Pillars of Healthy Aging
Featuring: Local Physicians

PROGRAM LEGEND

Intergenerational | Volunteer-Led | Guest Speaker | Rockford University Student-Led


The Living Well Center
of Northern Illinois



Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Todd Cagnoni, City Administrator

RE: Amendment to Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (DBA GoRockford) Contract for Service Agreement and Lease

DATE: August 6, 2026

For your consideration is the proposed amendment to the Funding Agreement with the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (GoRockford) extending the term of the agreement from an expiration of 2028 to an expiration of 2034 and the continued lease of 102 N Main Street. This is an extension of six (6) years from the existing agreement and lease.

The existing Funding Agreement sets a fee for service equal to seventy percent (70%) of the 5% Municipal Hotel Operators Occupation Tax (HMT) collected and received by the City pursuant to the Act and the Ordinance, less the pro-rata costs of the administration and auditing costs attributed to the HMT and not including the HMT collected from Hilton Embassy Suites, in accordance with the terms set forth in development agreement with Gorman . The amendment increases the fee for service equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the 5% Municipal Hotel Operators Occupation Tax (HMT) for additional services related to operations at Davis Park. This remains a reduction from previous agreements that were set up to 80% or 100% of HMT while adding additional operations at Davis Park.

In consideration of the increase in fee, GoRockford agrees to take on management of certain components of Davis Park pursuant to the draft Davis Park MOU on Operations between RAVE/Legends Global and GoRockford (dated February 2026). GoRockford will deliver regular activation, community programming, marketing, and operational coordination at Davis Park.

In conjunction with the funding agreement the continued lease of 102 N Main Street to GoRockford is also being extended through 2034 and aligns with the funding agreement. Base Rent and terms remain at $11.00 per square foot for a monthly amount of $7,115.24, allowing Base Rent to go towards a Capital Planning & Development Fund of the Lessee, or its successor Fund, for use towards capital improvement projects or city development/planning projects located within the City of Rockford, Illinois that would benefit and be conducive to growing tourism.

GoRockford, through the Planning and Development Committee, will continue to report on a quarterly basis. Reports will include information concerning its progress and activities within the scope of services specifically related to the City and Davis Park. Staff supports the amendments.

Rockford, Illinois Date: August 17, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:

Council Members:

The Committee on Planning and Development, to whom was referred the matter of the approval of the proposed amendment to the Funding Agreement with the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (GoRockford) extending the term of the agreement from an expiration of 2028 to an expiration of 2034 and the continued lease of 102 N Main Street, hereby begs leave to report **recommending approval** of the request as recommended.

____
Janessa Neal (Chair)

____
Tim Durkee (Vice Chair)

____
Karen Hoffman

____
Dawn Granath

____
Gina Meeks

Committee Action Taken: August 10, 2026

Neal:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Durkee:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Hoffman:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Granath:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Meeks:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____

ADDENDUM TO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES AND LEASE BETWEEN ROCKFORD AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AND CITY OF ROCKFORD

This Addendum to the Contract for Services and Lease ("Addendum") is entered into as of _________, 2026 ("Effective Date"), by and between the City of Rockford, an Illinois municipal corporation ("City"), and the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, d/b/a GoRockford ("GoRockford"). The City and GoRockford are referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties."

<u>Recitals</u>

A. Whereas, the Parties entered into that certain Funding Agreement dated January 1, 2023, as previously amended, if applicable (collectively, the "Agreement"), pursuant to which the City agreed to provide funding to GoRockford.

B. Whereas, the City approved the Agreement by Ordinance 2022-98-O adopted on June 8, 2022.

C. Whereas, the Parties desire to amend the Agreement to include the following:

1. Extension of the term of the Agreement from an expiration of December 31, 2028, to an expiration of December 31, 2034; and

2. Extension of the continued lease of 102 N. Main Street by GoRockford from an expiration of December 31, 2028, to an expiration of December 31, 2034; and

3. Increase the fee for service equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the Municipal Hotel Operators Occupation Tax (HMT) under the same terms effective the month following approval and execution of agreement by parties; and

4. Expansion of GoRockford's management of certain components of Davis Park pursuant to the Davis Park Memorandum of Understanding on Operations between RAVE/Legends Global and GoRockford (dated February 25, 2026). GoRockford will deliver regular activation, community programming, marketing, and operational coordination at Davis Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals, the mutual covenants contained in this Addendum, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Incorporation of Recitals

The foregoing recitals are incorporated into and made a part of this Addendum as though fully set forth in this Section 1.

2. Extension of Term

Section 6 in the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

The term of this Addendum shall be from the first of the month immediately following the approval and execution of this Addendum by the Parties.

3. Extension of Lease of 102 N. Main Street

Exhibit A to the Agreement is deleted and replaced with Exhibit A attached to this Addendum and incorporated by reference.

> The continued lease of 102 N. Main Street to GoRockford is extended through December 31, 2034. Base Rent and terms remain at $11.00 per square foot for a monthly amount of $7,115.24. In lieu of paying the Base Rent to Lessor, Lessee may allocate the Base Rent amount towards capital improvement projects or city development/planning projects located within the City of Rockford, Illinois that would benefit and be conducive to growing tourism.

4. Amendment to Bureau Base Fee-for-service

Section 7, subsection B in the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

> Bureau Base Fee-for-service: The City will pay the Bureau a fee equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the HMT collected and received by the City pursuant to the Act and the Ordinance, less the pro-rata costs of the administration and auditing costs attributed to the HMT, and excluding HMT committed for the redevelopment of 416 South Main Street per Development Agreement (Ordinance No. 2017-055-O), in accordance with the terms set forth therein. Said fee shall be expended in the sole discretion of the Bureau as long as the expenditures are for the purposes provided under the Act and are consistent with the terms and conditions of the Agreement. This provision is effective the first of the month immediately following the approval and execution of this Addendum by the Parties. The Finance Director of the City shall, by the 20th day of each month after the date the Tax is collected by the City, disburse the fee-for-service Tax proceeds resulting from the subject months' collection of the Tax to GoRockford.

4. Expansion of GoRockford's Role in Management of Certain Components of Davis Park

Section 2 in the Agreement will be modified to reflect the current provision as subsection A, and add the following as subsection B:

> GoRockford agrees to take on management of certain components of Davis Park pursuant to the Davis Park Memorandum of Understanding on Operations between RAVE/Legends Global and GoRockford dated February 25, 2026, a copy of which

is attached as Exhibit B and incorporated herein. GoRockford will deliver regular activation, community programming, marketing, and operational coordination at Davis Park.

This Addendum is in addition to, and made part of, the Contract for Services and Lease. In the event there is any conflict between the Agreement and this Addendum, the provisions in this Addendum shall control. Except as modified by this Addendum, all other provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Addendum as of the Effective Date.

City of Rockford,
an Illinois municipal corporation

By: ______________________________
Name: ____________________________
Title: Mayor

Date: _____________________________

Attest:

By: ______________________________
Name: ____________________________
Title: Legal Director

Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, DBA GoRockford,
an Illinois not-for-profit corporation

By: ______________________________
Name: John Groh
Title: President/CEO

Date: _____________________________

Proposal to the City of Rockford:
GoRockford & Legends Global Management Scope for Davis Park
Date: February 25, 2026
Prepared by: Legends Global / GoRockford

Purpose:
This proposal outlines the operational, programming, and management scopes of work for GoRockford and Legends Global in collaboration with GoRockford, under the authority of RAVE and the City of Rockford, for the management of Davis Park (320 S Wyman St).

1. Governance & Contracts

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) – City & RAVE

- RAVE continues to manage Davis Park, with responsibilities as defined in Exhibit E of the IGA between RAVE and the City of Rockford.
- The City may recommend programming or management changes with 90 days' written notice; during this period, RAVE retains rent-free use for any pre-scheduled events.

Management Agreement – RAVE & Legends Global

- Legends Global serves as the exclusive manager for day-to-day operations, event promotion, and facility management at BMO Center (300 Elm St) and Coronado PAC (314 N Main St). Nothing in this document should convey any GoRockford responsibility in regards to these two facilities.

Management Agreement - RAVE & Legends Global

- Legends Global serves as a manager for the specific event categories outlined in Section 2 and does not hold exclusive authority over all programming at Davis Park (320 S Wyman St).

Ticketmaster & IATSE Agreements

- Legends Global maintains agreements covering ticketed events and labor agreements, including commercial events managed by Legends Global at Davis Park. GoRockford is not required to adhere to these agreements for events it manages at the park.

Community Programming & Activation Agreement – City & GoRockford

- The City of Rockford and GoRockford will develop a formal agreement outlining GoRockford's responsibilities for community programming, daily activation, and public-facing initiatives. This agreement will define roles related to calendar management, community events, marketing coordination, and operational collaboration with RAVE and Legends Global.
- This structure is intended to complement the City's Intergovernmental Agreement with RAVE and RAVE's Management Agreement with Legends Global, ensuring that Davis Park operates under a coordinated governance framework with clearly defined responsibilities for commercial event management and community-based activation.

While RAVE retains contractual authority for Davis Park under its agreement with the City of Rockford, the parties acknowledge that GoRockford serves as the designated community programming and activation partner for daily park use and public-facing initiatives. The governance structure outlined above is intended to support coordinated management, protect contractual obligations, and ensure Davis Park operates as both a public community space and a professionally managed event venue.

2. Booking & Programming
Events Coordination Team – Davis Park
Purpose:
- Serve as a collaborative working group to coordinate events at Davis Park among Legends Global, GoRockford, and the City of Rockford.

Meeting Structure:
- Biweekly recurring meetings, or as needed during slower months.
- Meetings will piggyback off the existing Wednesday meetings with ABM, the City of Rockford, and the Rockford Police.
- The Events Coordination Team meeting will begin immediately following those meetings, at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Participants:
- Representatives from Legends Global
- Representatives from GoRockford
- Representatives from the City of Rockford

Responsibilities:
- Frequent and ongoing communication related to Davis Park events.
- Review and coordination of event inquiries and scheduling.
- Alignment on logistics, operational requirements, and staffing needs.

GoRockford Role Includes:
- Community programs: fitness, arts/cultural pop-ups, youth engagement, and environmental education.
- Free or low-cost public events: e.g., Food Truck Fridays, pop-up markets, passive entertainment, daily use events and local concerts.
- Partnerships with community organizations and promoters.
- Alcohol sales are allowed with a proper permit and insurance.
- Potential collaboration with Legends Global for event setup, security, and staffing support.

Legends Global Role Includes:
Legends will continue using the Davis Park inquiry form for event requests and communicate those ASAP.
- Ticketed concerts, festivals, and cultural events, including Legends-curated content (e.g., Tacos & Tequila Fest, Carnival).
- Private and corporate events (Labor Day Picnic, SMERF groups).
- First right of refusal for prior booking customers.
- Event sponsorship strategy to offset free/large-scale event costs (~$50k/event plus artist fees).
- Ownership of recurring events:
    - Friday Night Flix – Legends to continue
    - Labor Day Picnic – classified as a private event
    - 4th of July – traditionally a City event – hold Coronado as a backup

Weddings & Special Bookings

- GoRockford or Embassy Suites may book ceremonies and receptions in Davis Park for open dates on the calendar, unless the event requires Legends Global services.
- A $500 hold fee will apply to private events to secure exclusive use of the park; small, non-private gatherings will remain flexible.

3. Calendar & Scheduling

Calendar Management:

As GoRockford is responsible for programming, activating, and overseeing the park's daily use, they will manage the master calendar. Legends Global will have direct access to the calendar to place holds and confirmations, as well as to update the Davis Park website.

This structure:

- Preserves GoRockford's authority over daily programming, community events, and routine park use.
- Provides Legends Global with clearly defined protections for major concerts and ticketed events through advance holds or designated blackout periods.
- Supports longer-term planning, clear ownership, and appropriate risk mitigation for both parties.
- Avoids granting blanket annual control of the calendar while ensuring headline events are properly protected, scheduled, and supported.

In addition:

- The Davis Park inquiry form is live on the website; potential adoption of a Scissortail Park-style calendar for internal and public scheduling.
- Example programming cadence: weekly fitness and cultural programs, bi-weekly community activities, monthly festivals, and annual major events.

Scheduling, Contracts & Cancellations:

Both parties acknowledge that Davis Park serves dual purposes: (1) a community-access public space and (2) a revenue-generating event venue. Scheduling decisions will aim to balance both objectives throughout the calendar year.

- Legends Global will submit up to ten (10) annual event holds to GoRockford by **December 1** for the upcoming calendar year to allow for the booking of large-scale and/or revenue-generating events, private events, first-right-of-refusal events, and similar priority bookings. Throughout the year, Legends Global may remove, confirm, or place holds on dates as event inquiries are received.
- Additional holds placed during the calendar year must be for dates at least sixty (60) days in advance, unless mutually agreed otherwise.
- If a date is listed as a **hold** and GoRockford receives an inquiry (ready to confirm) for the same date, GoRockford may challenge the hold. Legends Global will then have forty-eight (48) hours to confirm the date; if the date is not confirmed within that timeframe, GoRockford may proceed with booking the date. It's important to note, the competing event must be a confirmed show ready to sign, not simply another hold.

- Annual holds must be associated with active booking efforts and will be reviewed quarterly. Any hold not actively advancing toward contract may be released upon mutual discussion.
- If a date is **confirmed and under contract**, either party may request that the other consider relocating or rescheduling the event. If relocation or rescheduling is not feasible and the event is under contract, the confirmed event will retain the date.
- An event shall be considered “under contract” when a fully executed agreement is in place and any required deposit has been received.
- If a date is listed on the calendar but is **not under contract**, and another event seeks to book that date, both parties agree to make good-faith efforts to negotiate a mutually beneficial solution. If agreement cannot be reached, priority shall be determined based on confirmed contractual status, material financial impact, and community access considerations prior to escalation to the City.
- In all cases, the City of Rockford will retain final veto authority after written consultation and recommendation from both Legends Global and GoRockford are received by the City.

4. Marketing

- Legends Global will continue to own and manage the Davis Park website, inquiry form, and social media channels in coordination with GoRockford.
- GoRockford will have direct access or designated posting privileges to promote community programs, public events, and park activations it produces or manages.
- Both parties will collaborate to ensure consistent branding, timely event promotion, and balanced visibility between community-based programming and ticketed or commercial events.
- Content related to events produced or managed by GoRockford shall not be unreasonably withheld, delayed, or removed.
- A public-facing widget will be added to the existing website to provide shared calendar access and transparency for event listings between Legends and GoRockford.
- An internal shared calendar will be developed to manage event holds, coordination, and programming approvals among Legends and GoRockford.

5. Food & Beverage

- Neither Legends Global nor GoRockford hold an annual liquor license for Davis Park.
- Licensed food vendors are allowed for specific events.
- Alcohol licensing responsibility depends on the event manager (Legends vs. GoRockford). The producing entity for each event shall be solely responsible for obtaining required permits, insurance coverage, and regulatory compliance for food and alcohol service.

6. Safety & Security

- Roof coverage required for large-scale events (e.g., 4th of July).
- Legends to coordinate Rockford Police Department staffing needs for its events during bi-weekly parking meetings. GoRockford will coordinate police needs independently.

- Staff screening (wanding/searching) is only required when fencing is in place.
- Determination of fencing and screening requirements shall be based on event risk profile and mutually agreed upon by the event producer and Legends Global or GoRockford (depending on event management) in consultation with the City.

7. Next Steps

1. Legends Global to define prime dates for calendar holds.
2. Legends Global to review and update the Davis Park rate sheet.
3. Establish the Programming Committee meeting schedule for ongoing coordination with GoRockford.

Conclusion:

This proposal establishes a collaborative framework through which GoRockford and Legends Global, in partnership with the City of Rockford, will jointly support the activation, management, and long-term success of Davis Park. By clearly defining roles, calendar coordination, programming priorities, and operational responsibilities, this structure balances community access with commercial viability.

Together, GoRockford and Legends Global will ensure Davis Park serves as both a vibrant public gathering space and a premier downtown event venue, supporting free and accessible community programming, ticketed concerts and festivals, and private events. This partnership model promotes transparency, operational efficiency, and shared accountability while protecting the City's interests and enhancing the overall experience for residents, visitors, and event producers alike.

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: August 10, 2026

To: Planning and Development Committee
Members of City Council

From: Timothy Hinkens, P.E., City Engineer

Re: **Memo: Grant Award Acceptance (IEPA – Beverly Park Floodplain Connection)**

In alignment with the City's stormwater master planning strategies of improving water quality and capacity by replacing failing concrete drainageway channels with a natural streambed, City staff identified the Beverly Park Floodplain Connection project as most beneficial to receive grant funding. City Staff applied for this project to receive assistance through the Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Of a statewide call for projects, only five were selected. The Beverly Park Floodplain Connection was selected to receive **$613,551.00** (65%) of grant funds for the project. The City would match *$333,384.00* of local CIP funds.

The project's scope is to replace the failing tributary to the North Fork of Kent Creek concrete channel with a natural, stabilized streambed using stone and native planting. The project length will span the existing tributary from Kent Creek north to Gilbert Avenue in the Beverly Park neighborhood.

Please consider the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of the grant award. Please contact Timothy Hinkens, City Engineer, with any questions.

Rockford, Illinois　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Date: August 17, 2026

RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:

Council Members:

The Committee on Planning and Development having received a request hereby begs leave to report recommending **approval** of the acceptance of the Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in the amount of $613,551.00 to implement the Beverly Park Floodplain Connection. The Legal Director shall prepare the appropriate resolution.

____
Janessa Neal (Chair)

____
Tim Durkee (Vice Chair)

____
Karen Hoffman

____
Dawn Granath

____
Gina Meeks

Committee Action Taken: August 10, 2026

Neal:	Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____
Durkee:	Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____
Hoffman:	Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____
Granath:	Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____
Meeks:	Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____

City Council Rooms, City of Rockford, Illinois

Date: August 10, 2026

<u>RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD</u>

Resolution No:_____ ________

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford, Illinois has been selected by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to receive funds for the Beverly Park Floodplain Connection; and

WHEREAS, the grant has been awarded for the purpose of supporting drainageway improvements that encourage green infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford, Illinois will receive $613,551.00; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford intends use the funds to reimburse construction costs of the Beverly Park Floodplain Connection project; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rockford, Illinois, this _______ day of August 2026.

____
Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor
City of Rockford, Illinois

ATTEST:

____
Angela Hammer, Legal Director and
Ex Officio Keeper of the Records and Seal of the
City of Rockford, Illinois

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Location Map
(Beverly Park Floodplain Connection)

Figure 1: Aerial view of concrete channel in Beverly Park neighborhood

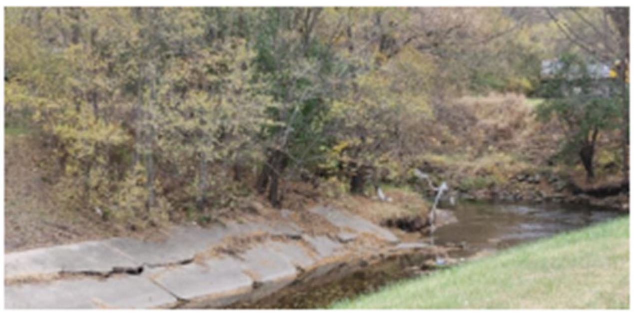


Figure 2: Concrete channel discharging into North Fork of Kent Creek. Broken concrete and debris are present.

Figure 3: Concrete channel passing under Gilbert Avenue. Invasive brush impedes flow.

Agreement No. 26GIGO05 (27-2388-20787)

GRANT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
AND
CITY OF ROCKFORD

The parties to this Grant Agreement (Agreement) are the State of Illinois (State), acting through the undersigned agency and City of Rockford (Grantee) (collectively, the "Parties" and individually, a "Party"). The Agreement, consisting of the signature page, the parts listed below, and any additional exhibits or attachments referenced in this Agreement, constitute the entire agreement between the Parties. No promises, terms, or conditions not recited, incorporated or referenced herein, including prior agreements or oral discussions, are binding upon either Grantee or Grantor.

PART ONE - The Uniform Terms

Article I	**Definitions**
Article II	**Award Information**
Article III	**Grantee Certifications and Representations**
Article IV	**Payment Requirements**
Article V	**Scope of Award Activities/Purpose of Award**
Article VI	**Budget**
Article VII	**Allowable Costs**
Article VIII	**Lobbying**
Article IX	**Maintenance and Accessibility of Records; Monitoring**
Article X	**Financial Reporting Requirements**
Article XI	**Performance Reporting Requirements**
Article XII	**Audit Requirements**
Article XIII	**Termination; Suspension; Non-compliance**
Article XIV	**Subcontracts/Subawards**
Article XV	**Notice of Change**
Article XVI	**Structural Reorganization and Reconstitution of Board Membership**
Article XVII	**Conflict of Interest**
Article XVIII	**Equipment or Property**
Article XIX	**Promotional Materials; Prior Notification**
Article XX	**Insurance**
Article XXI	**Lawsuits and Indemnification**
Article XXII	**Miscellaneous**
Exhibit A	**Project Description**
Exhibit B	**Deliverables or Milestones**
Exhibit C	**Contact Information**
Exhibit D	**Performance Measures and Standards**
Exhibit E	**Specific Conditions**

PART TWO - Grantor-Specific Terms

PART THREE - Project-Specific Terms

The Parties or their duly authorized representatives hereby execute this Agreement.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

By: ______________________________

Signature of James Jennings , Title Director

By: N/A

Signature of Designee

Date: ______________________________

Printed Name: N/A

Printed Title: N/A

By: ______________________________

Signature of Second Grantor Approver, if applicable

Date: ______________________________

Printed Name: Andrew Armstrong

Printed Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Second Grantor Approver

By: ______________________________

Signature of Third Grantor Approver, if applicable

Date: ______________________________

Printed Name: Max Paller

Printed Title: Chief Financial Officer

Third Grantor Approver

City of Rockford

By: ______________________________

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date: ______________________________

Printed Name: ______________________________

Printed Title: ______________________________

Email: ______________________________

By: ______________________________

Signature of Second Grantee Approver, if applicable

Date: ______________________________

Printed Name: ______________________________

Printed Title: ______________________________

Email: ______________________________

Second Grantee Approver
(optional at Grantee's discretion)

PART ONE - THE UNIFORM TERMS

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

1.1. Definitions. Capitalized words andphrases used in this Agreement have the meanings stated in 2 CFR 200.1 unless otherwise stated below.

"Allowable Costs" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Award" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Budget" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Catalog of State Financial Assistance" or "CSFA" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Close-out Report" means a report from the Grantee allowing Grantor to determine whether all applicable administrative actions and required work have been completed, and therefore closeout actions can commence.

"Conflict of Interest" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Cooperative Research and Development Agreement" has the same meaning as in 15 USC 3710a.

"Direct Costs" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Financial Assistance" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"GATU" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Grant Agreement" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Grantee Compliance Enforcement System" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Grant Funds" means the Financial Assistance made available to Grantee through this Agreement.

"Grantee Portal" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Indirect Costs" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Indirect Cost Rate" means a device for determining in a reasonable manner the proportion of Indirect Costs each Program should bear. It is a ratio (expressed as a percentage) of the Indirect Costs to a Direct Cost base. If reimbursement of Indirect Costs is allowable under an Award, Grantor will not reimburse those Indirect Costs unless Grantee has established an Indirect Cost Rate covering the applicable activities and period of time, unless Indirect Costs are reimbursed at a fixed rate.

"Indirect Cost Rate Proposal" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Obligations" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

"Period of Performance" has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

“Prior Approval” has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

“Profit” means an entity's total revenue less its operating expenses, interest paid, depreciation, and taxes. “Profit” is synonymous with the term “net revenue.”

“Program” means the services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement. "Program" is used interchangeably with "Project."

“Program Costs” means all Allowable Costs incurred by Grantee and the value of the contributions made by third parties in accomplishing the objectives of the Award during the Term of this Agreement.

“Related Parties” has the meaning set forth in Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 850-10-20.

“SAM” has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

“State-issued Award” means the assistance that a grantee receives directly from a State agency. The funding source of the State-issued Award can be federal pass-through, State or a combination thereof. "State-issued Award" does not include the following:

- contracts issued pursuant to the Illinois Procurement Code that a State agency uses to buy goods or services from a contractor or a contract to operate State government-owned, contractor-operated facilities;
- agreements that meet the definition of "contract" under 2 CFR 200.1 and 2 CFR 200.331, which a State agency uses to procure goods or services but are exempt from the Illinois Procurement Code due to an exemption listed under 30 ILCS 500/1-10, or pursuant to a disaster proclamation, executive order, or any other exemption permitted by law;
- amounts received for services rendered to an individual;
- Cooperative Research and Development Agreements;
- an agreement that provides only direct cash assistance to an individual;
- a subsidy;
- a loan;
- a loan guarantee; or
- insurance.

“Illinois Stop Payment List” has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

“Unallowable Cost” has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

“Unique Entity Identifier” or “UEI” has the same meaning as in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30.

ARTICLE II
AWARD INFORMATION

2.1. Term. This Agreement is effective on execution and expires on 5/31/28 (the Term), unless terminated pursuant to this Agreement.

2.2. Amount of Agreement. Grant Funds (check one) ☒ must not exceed or ☐ are estimated to be $613,551.00, of which $0.00 are federal funds. Grantee accepts Grantor's payment as specified in this ARTICLE.

2.3. Payment. Payment will be made as follows (see additional payment requirements in ARTICLE IV; additional payment provisions specific to this Award may be included in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**):
The Grantee shall receive $613,551.00 under this Agreement.

TOTAL PROJECT COST: $ 946,935.00
Grantor Share: $ 613,551.00 65.0 % of Total project cost
Grantee Share: $ 333,384.00 35.0 % of Total Project cost

The specific terms of payment are:

The estimated project costs allowable under this Agreement are identified in the Budget incorporated herein as an Attachment 1.

The Grantor's financial obligations to the Grantee are limited to the amount of funding identified as "Grantor Share" in this Agreement. All Grantee costs and match must be incurred within the Agreement Term. If the Grantee incurs costs in anticipation of receiving additional funds from the Grantor, the Grantee does so at its own risk.

Illinois state sales tax, travel, per diem, and lodging are not eligible for reimbursement or as match.

Payment requests submitted by the Grantee must be for the reimbursement of incurred costs. Advanced payment is not allowed. Requests for payment must be submitted by the Grantee's authorized representative no more frequently than once per month. Invoices for supplies purchased, services performed, and expenses incurred through June 30 of any year must be submitted to the Grantor no later than August 1 of that year; otherwise, the Grantee may have to seek payment through the Illinois Court of Claims. Each request must detail the amount and value of the work performed and must be accompanied by such supporting documentation as required by the Grantor. The requests for payment shall be submitted to the Grantor through the Grantee portal on AmpliFund (Euna).

The Grantor may withhold payment to the Grantee if the Grantee's progress in completing the Performance Measures contained in Exhibit D of this Agreement does not meet the project schedule contained in the Agreement to the satisfaction of the Grantor. The Grantor may withhold payment to the Grantee if Grantee fails to file required reports. The Grantor retains the right to withhold ten (10) percent of the Grantor Share until all products outlined in Exhibit D (Performance Measures) of this Agreement are submitted and approved by Grantor.

Upon satisfactory completion of the work performed under the Agreement, as a condition before final payment under the Agreement or as a termination settlement under the Agreement the Grantee must execute and deliver to the Grantor a release of all claims against the Grantor arising under the Agreement. Unless otherwise provided in the Agreement or in another writing executed by both the Grantor and the Grantee, final payment under the Agreement or settlement upon termination of the Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of any claim that the Grantor may have pertaining to the Agreement against any party affected by the Agreement.

2.4. Award Identification Numbers. If applicable, the Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) is N/A
, the federal awarding agency is N/A
, the Federal Award date is N/A . If applicable, the Assistance Listing Program Title is N/A

and Assistance Listing Number is N/A . The Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CFSA) Number is 532-60-2388 and the CSFA Name is Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities .
If applicable, the State Award Identification Number (SAIN) is 2388-20787 .

ARTICLE III
GRANTEE CERTIFICATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

3.1. Registration Certification. Grantee certifies that: (i) it is registered with SAM and MPDSB2MNMM19 is Grantee's correct UEI; (ii) it is in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, if applicable; and (iii) Grantee has successfully completed the annual registration and prequalification through the Grantee Portal.

Grantee must remain current with these registrations and requirements. If Grantee's status with regard to any of these requirements changes, or the certifications made in and information provided in the uniform grant application changes, Grantee must notify Grantor in accordance with ARTICLE XV.

3.2. Tax Identification Certification. Grantee certifies that: 366006082 is Grantee's correct federal employer identification number (FEIN) or Social Security Number. Grantee further certifies, if applicable:
(a) that Grantee is not subject to backup withholding because (i) Grantee is exempt from backup withholding, or (ii) Grantee has not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that Grantee is subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (iii) the IRS has notified Grantee that Grantee is no longer subject to backup withholding; and (b) Grantee is a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person.
Grantee is doing business as a (check one):

☐ Individual	☐ Pharmacy-Non-Corporate
☐ Sole Proprietorship	☐ Pharmacy/Funeral Home/Cemetery Corp.
☐ Partnership	☐ Tax Exempt*
☐ Corporation	☐ Limited Liability Company (select applicable tax classification)
☐ Medical Corporation	
☒ Governmental Unit	☐ P = partnership
☐ Estate or Trust	☐ C = corporation

*Grantee must select "Tax Exempt" if Grantee is doing business as a corporation that is tax exempt.

If Grantee has not received a payment from the State of Illinois in the last two years, Grantee must submit a W-9 tax form with this Agreement.

3.3. Compliance with Uniform Grant Rules. Grantee certifies that it must adhere to the applicable Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, which are published in Title 2, Part 200 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR Part 200) and are incorporated herein by reference. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.40(c)(1)(A). The requirements of 2 CFR Part 200 apply to the Grant Funds awarded through this Agreement, regardless of whether the original source of the funds is State or federal, unless an exception is noted in federal or State statutes or regulations. 30 ILCS 708/5(b).

3.4. Representations and Use of Funds. Grantee certifies under oath that (1) all representations made in this Agreement are true and correct and (2) all Grant Funds awarded pursuant to this Agreement must be used only for the purpose(s) described herein. Grantee acknowledges that the Award is made solely upon this certification and that any false statements, misrepresentations, or material omissions will be the basis for immediate termination of this Agreement and repayment of all Grant Funds.

3.5. Specific Certifications. Grantee is responsible for compliance with the enumerated certifications in this Paragraph to the extent that the certifications apply to Grantee.

(a) **Bribery.** Grantee certifies that it has not been convicted of bribery or attempting to bribe an officer or employee of the State of Illinois, nor made an admission of guilt of such conduct which is a matter of record.

(b) **Bid Rigging.** Grantee certifies that it has not been barred from contracting with a unit of State or local government as a result of a violation of Paragraph 33E-3 or 33E-4 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/33E-3 or 720 ILCS 5/33E-4, respectively).

(c) **Debt to State.** Grantee certifies that neither it, nor its affiliate(s), is/are barred from receiving an Award because Grantee, or its affiliate(s), is/are delinquent in the payment of any debt to the State, unless Grantee, or its affiliate(s), has/have entered into a deferred payment plan to pay off the debt.

(d) **International Boycott.** Grantee certifies that neither it nor any substantially owned affiliated company is participating or will participate in an international boycott in violation of the provision of the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018, Part II of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 USC 4841 through 4843), and the anti-boycott provisions set forth in Part 760 of the federal Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR Parts 730 through 774).

(e) **Discriminatory Club Dues or Fees.** Grantee certifies that it is not prohibited from receiving an Award because it pays dues or fees on behalf of its employees or agents, or subsidizes or otherwise reimburses employees or agents for payment of their dues or fees to any club which unlawfully discriminates (775 ILCS 25/2).

(f) **Pro-Children Act.** Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with the Pro-Children Act of 2001 in that it prohibits smoking in any portion of its facility used for the provision of health, day care, early childhood development services, education or library services to children under the age of eighteen (18) (except such portions of the facilities which are used for inpatient substance abuse treatment) (20 USC 7181-7184).

(g) **Drug-Free Workplace.** If Grantee is not an individual, Grantee certifies it will provide a drug free workplace pursuant to the Drug Free Workplace Act. 30 ILCS 580/3. If Grantee is an individual and this Agreement is valued at more than $5,000, Grantee certifies it will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance during the performance of the Agreement. 30 ILCS 580/4. Grantee further certifies that if it is a recipient of federal pass-through funds, it is in compliance with government-wide requirements for a drug-free workplace as set forth in 41 USC 8103.

(h) **Motor Voter Law.** Grantee certifies that it is in full compliance with the terms and provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 USC 20501 *et seq.*).

(i) **Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.** Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 *et seq.*) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 USC 1251 *et seq.*).

(j) **Debarment.** Grantee certifies that it is not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment or permanent inclusion on the Illinois Stop Payment List, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this Agreement by any federal department or agency (2 CFR 200.205(a)), or by the State (30 ILCS 708/25(6)(G)).

(k) **Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension.** Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with Subpart C of 2 CFR Part 180 as supplemented by 2 CFR Part 376, Subpart C.

(l) **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.** Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) (Public Law No. 104-191, 45 CFR Parts 160, 162 and 164, and the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1320d-2 through 1320d-7), in that it may not use or disclose protected health information other than as permitted or required by law and agrees to use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of the protected health information. Grantee must maintain, for a minimum of six (6) years, all protected health information.

(m) **Criminal Convictions.** Grantee certifies that:

(i) Neither it nor a managerial agent of Grantee (for non-governmental grantees only, this includes any officer, director or partner of Grantee) has been convicted of a felony under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, nor a Class 3 or Class 2 felony under Illinois Securities Law of 1953, or that at least five (5) years have passed since the date of the conviction; and

(ii) It must disclose to Grantor all violations of criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity violations potentially affecting this Award. Failure to disclose may result in remedial actions as stated in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. 30 ILCS 708/40. Additionally, if Grantee receives over $10 million in total federal Financial Assistance, during the period of this Award, Grantee must maintain the currency of information reported to SAM regarding civil, criminal or administrative proceedings as required by 2 CFR 200.113 and Appendix XII of 2 CFR Part 200, and 30 ILCS 708/40.

(n) **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA).** Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with the terms and requirements of 31 USC 6101 with respect to Federal Awards greater than or equal to $30,000. A FFATA subaward report must be filed by the end of the month following the month in which the award was made.

(o) **Illinois Works Review Panel**. For Awards made for public works projects, as defined in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, Grantee certifies that it and any contractor(s) or subcontractor(s) that performs work using funds from this Award, must, upon reasonable notice, appear before and respond to requests for information from the Illinois Works Review Panel. 30 ILCS 559/20-25(d).

(p) **Anti-Discrimination.** Grantee certifies that its employees and subcontractors under subcontract made pursuant to this Agreement, must comply with all applicable provisions of State and federal laws and regulations pertaining to nondiscrimination, sexual harassment and equal employment opportunity including, but not limited to: Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 *et seq.*), including, without limitation, 44 Ill. Admin. Code 750-Appendix A, which is incorporated herein; Public Works Employment Discrimination Act (775 ILCS 10/1 *et seq.*); Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended) (42 USC 2000a - 2000h-6); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794); Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as amended) (42 USC 12101 *et seq.*); and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 USC 6101 *et seq.*).

(q) **Internal Revenue Code and Illinois Income Tax Act**. Grantee certifies that it complies with all provisions of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 USC 1), the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5), and all regulations and rules promulgated thereunder, including withholding provisions and timely deposits of employee taxes and unemployment insurance taxes.

ARTICLE IV
PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

4.1. Availability of Appropriation; Sufficiency of Funds. This Agreement is contingent upon and subject to the availability of sufficient funds. Grantor may terminate or suspend this Agreement, in whole or in part, without penalty or further payment being required, if (i) sufficient funds for this Agreement have not been appropriated or otherwise made available to Grantor by the State or the federal funding source, (ii) the Governor or Grantor reserves funds, or (iii) the Governor or Grantor determines that funds will not or may not be available for payment. Grantor must provide notice, in writing, to Grantee of any such funding failure and its election to terminate or suspend this Agreement as soon as practicable. Any suspension or termination pursuant to this Paragraph will be effective upon the date of the written notice unless otherwise indicated.

4.2. Pre-Award Costs. Pre-award costs are not permitted unless specifically authorized by Grantor in **Exhibit A**, **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** of this Agreement. If they are authorized, pre-award costs must be charged to the initial Budget Period of the Award, unless otherwise specified by Grantor. 2 CFR 200.458.

4.3. Return of Grant Funds. Grantee must liquidate all Obligations incurred under the Award within forty-five (45) days of the end of the Period of Performance, or in the case of capital improvement Awards, within forty-five (45) days of the end of the time period the Grant Funds are available for expenditure or obligation, unless Grantor permits a longer period in **PART TWO** OR **PART THREE**. Grantee must return to Grantor within forty-five (45) days of the end of the applicable time period as set forth in this Paragraph all remaining Grant Funds that are not expended or legally obligated.

4.4. Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990. Unless notified otherwise in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**, Grantee must manage federal funds received under this Agreement in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990 (31 USC 6501 *et seq.*) and any other applicable federal laws or regulations. 2 CFR 200.305; 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.120.

4.5. Payments to Third Parties. Grantor will have no liability to Grantee when Grantor acts in good faith to redirect all or a portion of any Grantee payment to a third party. Grantor will be deemed to have acted in good faith when it is in possession of information that indicates Grantee authorized Grantor to intercept or redirect payments to a third party or when so ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

4.6. Modifications to Estimated Amount. If the Agreement amount is established on an estimated basis, then it may be increased by mutual agreement at any time during the Term. Grantor may decrease the estimated amount of this Agreement at any time during the Term if (i) Grantor believes Grantee will not use the funds during the Term, (ii) Grantor believes Grantee has used Grant Funds in a manner that was not authorized by this Agreement, (iii) sufficient funds for this Agreement have not been appropriated or otherwise made available to Grantor by the State or the federal funding source, (iv) the Governor or Grantor reserves funds, or (v) the Governor or Grantor determines that funds will or may not be available for payment. Grantee will be notified, in writing, of any adjustment of the estimated amount of this Agreement. In the event of such reduction, services provided by Grantee under **Exhibit A** may be reduced accordingly. Grantor must pay Grantee for work satisfactorily performed prior to the date of the notice regarding adjustment. 2 CFR 200.308.

4.7. Interest.

(a) All interest earned on Grant Funds held by a Grantee or a subrecipient will be treated in accordance with 2 CFR 200.305(b)(12), unless otherwise provided in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**. Grantee and its subrecipients must remit annually any amount due in accordance with 2 CFR 200.305(b)(12) or to Grantor, as applicable.

(b) Grant Funds must be placed in an insured account, whenever possible, that bears interest, unless exempted under 2 CFR 200.305(b)(10), (b)(11).

4.8. Timely Billing Required. Grantee must submit any payment request to Grantor within fifteen (15) days of the end of the quarter, unless another billing schedule is specified in **ARTICLE II, PART TWO**, or **PART THREE**. Failure to submit such payment request timely will render the amounts billed Unallowable Costs which Grantor cannot reimburse. In the event that Grantee is unable, for good cause, to submit its payment request timely, Grantee shall timely notify Grantor and may request an extension of time to submit the payment request. Grantor's approval of Grantee's request for an extension shall not be unreasonably withheld.

4.9. Certification. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.415, each invoice and report submitted by Grantee (or subrecipient) must contain the following certification by an official authorized to legally bind Grantee (or subrecipient):

> By signing this report [or payment request or both], I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report [or payment request] is true, complete, and accurate; that the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the State or federal pass-through award; and that supporting documentation has been submitted as required by the grant agreement. I acknowledge that approval for any other expenditure described herein is considered conditional subject to further review and verification in accordance with the monitoring and records retention provisions of the grant agreement. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise (U.S. Code Title 18, Sections 2, 1001, 1343 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812; 30 ILCS 708/120).

ARTICLE V
SCOPE OF AWARD ACTIVITIES/PURPOSE OF AWARD

5.1. Scope of Award Activities/Purpose of Award. Grantee must perform as described in this Agreement, including as described in **Exhibit A** (Project Description), **Exhibit B** (Deliverables or Milestones), and **Exhibit D** (Performance Measures and Standards), as applicable. Grantee must further comply with all terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of State Award (44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.360) which is incorporated herein by reference. All Grantor-specific provisions and programmatic reporting required under this Agreement are described in **PART TWO** (Grantor-Specific Terms). All Project-specific provisions and reporting required under this Agreement are described in **PART THREE** (Project-Specific Terms).

5.2. Scope Revisions. Grantee must obtain Prior Approval from Grantor whenever a scope revision is necessary for one or more of the reasons enumerated in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.370(b)(2). All requests for scope revisions that require Grantor approval must be signed by Grantee's authorized representative and submitted to Grantor for approval. Expenditure of funds under a requested revision is prohibited and will not be reimbursed if expended before Grantor gives written approval. 2 CFR 200.308.

5.3. Specific Conditions. If applicable, specific conditions required after a risk assessment are included in **Exhibit E**. Grantee must adhere to the specific conditions listed therein. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.340(e).

ARTICLE VI
BUDGET

6.1. Budget. The Budget submitted by Grantee at application, or a revised Budget subsequently submitted and approved by Grantor, is considered final and is incorporated herein by reference.

6.2. Budget Revisions. Grantee must obtain Prior Approval, whether mandated or discretionary, from Grantor whenever a Budget revision, is necessary for one or more of the reasons enumerated in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.370(b). All requests for Budget revisions that require Grantor approval must be signed by Grantee's authorized representative and submitted to Grantor for approval. Expenditure of funds under a requested revision is prohibited and will not be reimbursed if expended before Grantor gives written approval.

6.3. Notification. Within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of the request for Budget revisions, Grantor will review the request and notify Grantee whether the Budget revision has been approved, denied, or the date upon which a decision will be reached. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.370(b)(7).

ARTICLE VII
ALLOWABLE COSTS

7.1. Allowability of Costs; Cost Allocation Methods. The allowability of costs and cost allocation methods for work performed under this Agreement will be determined in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E and Appendices III, IV, V, and VII.

7.2. Indirect Cost Rate Submission.

(a) All grantees, except for Local Education Agencies (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1), must make an Indirect Cost Rate election in the Grantee Portal, even grantees that do not charge or expect to charge Indirect Costs. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.420(e).

(i) Waived and de minimis Indirect Cost Rate elections will remain in effect until Grantee elects a different option.

(b) Grantee must submit an Indirect Cost Rate Proposal in accordance with federal and State regulations, in a format prescribed by Grantor. For grantees who have never negotiated an Indirect Cost Rate before, the Indirect Cost Rate Proposal must be submitted for approval no later than three months after the effective date of the Award. For grantees who have previously negotiated an Indirect Cost Rate, the Indirect Cost Rate Proposal must be submitted for approval within 180 days of Grantee's fiscal year end, as dictated in the applicable appendices, such as:

(i) Appendix VII to 2 CFR Part 200 governs Indirect Cost Rate Proposals for state and Local Governments and Indian Tribes,

(ii) Appendix III to 2 CFR Part 200 governs Indirect Cost Rate Proposals for public and private institutions of higher education,

(iii) Appendix IV to 2 CFR Part 200 governs Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations, and

(iv) Appendix V to 2 CFR Part 200 governs state/Local Government-wide Central Service Cost Allocation Plans.

(c) A grantee who has a current, applicable rate negotiated by a cognizant federal agency must provide to Grantor a copy of its Indirect Cost Rate acceptance letter from the federal government and a copy of all documentation regarding the allocation methodology for costs used to negotiate that rate, e.g., without limitation, the cost policy statement or disclosure narrative statement. Grantor will accept that Indirect Cost Rate, up to any statutory, rule-based or programmatic limit.

(d) A grantee who does not have a current negotiated rate, may elect to charge a de minimis rate up to 15 percent of modified total direct costs, which may be used indefinitely. No documentation is required to justify the de minimis Indirect Cost Rate. 2 CFR 200.414(f).

7.3. Transfer of Costs. Cost transfers between Grants, whether as a means to compensate for cost overruns or for other reasons, are unallowable. 2 CFR 200.451.

7.4. Commercial Organization Cost Principles. The federal cost principles and procedures for cost analysis and the determination, negotiation and allowance of costs that apply to commercial organizations are set forth in 48 CFR Part 31.

7.5. Financial Management Standards. The financial management systems of Grantee must meet the following standards:

(a) **Accounting System**. Grantee organizations must have an accounting system that provides accurate, current, and complete disclosure of all financial transactions related to each state- and federally-funded Program. Accounting records must contain information pertaining to State and federal pass-through awards, authorizations, Obligations, unobligated balances, assets, outlays, and income. These records must be maintained on a current basis and balanced at least quarterly. Cash contributions to the Program from third parties must be accounted for in the general ledger with other Grant Funds. Third party in-kind (non-cash) contributions are not required to be recorded in the general ledger, but must be under accounting control, possibly through the use of a memorandum ledger. To comply with 2 CFR 200.305(b)(9) and 30 ILCS 708/97, Grantee must use reasonable efforts to ensure that funding streams are delineated within Grantee's accounting system. 2 CFR 200.302.

(b) **Source Documentation**. Accounting records must be supported by such source documentation as canceled checks, bank statements, invoices, paid bills, donor letters, time and attendance records, activity reports, travel reports, contractual and consultant agreements, and subaward documentation. All supporting documentation must be clearly identified with the Award and general ledger accounts which are to be charged or credited.

(i) The documentation standards for salary charges to Grants are prescribed by 2 CFR 200.430, and in the cost principles applicable to the Grantee's organization.

(ii) If records do not meet the standards in 2 CFR 200.430, then Grantor may notify Grantee in **PART TWO**, **PART THREE** or **Exhibit E** of the requirement to submit personnel activity reports. 2 CFR 200.430(g)(8). Personnel activity reports must account on an after-the-fact basis for one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's actual time, separately indicating the time spent on the Award, other grants or projects, vacation or sick leave, and administrative time, if applicable. The reports must be signed by the employee, approved by the appropriate official, and coincide with a pay period. These time records must be used to record the distribution of salary costs to the appropriate accounts no less frequently than quarterly.

(iii) Formal agreements with independent contractors, such as consultants, must include a description of the services to be performed, the period of performance, the fee and method of payment, an itemization of travel and other costs which are chargeable to the agreement, and the signatures of both the contractor and an appropriate official of Grantee.

(iv) If third party in-kind (non-cash) contributions are used for Award purposes, the valuation of these contributions must be supported with adequate documentation.

(c) **Internal Control**. Grantee must maintain effective control and accountability for all cash, real and personal property, and other assets. Grantee must adequately safeguard all such property and must provide assurance that it is used solely for authorized purposes. Grantee must also have systems in place that provide reasonable assurance that the information is accurate, allowable, and compliant with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. 2 CFR 200.303.

(d) **Budget Control**. Grantee must maintain records of expenditures for each Award by the cost categories of the approved Budget (including Indirect Costs that are charged to the Award), and actual expenditures are to be compared with budgeted amounts at least quarterly.

(e) **Cash Management**. Requests for advance payment must be limited to Grantee's immediate cash needs. Grantee must have written procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the receipt and the disbursement of Grant Funds to avoid having excess funds on hand. 2 CFR 200.305.

7.6 Profits. It is not permitted for any person or entity to earn a Profit from an Award. *See, e.g.*, 2 CFR 200.400(g); *see also* 30 ILCS 708/60(a)(7).

7.7. Management of Program Income. Grantee is encouraged to earn income to defray Program Costs where appropriate, subject to 2 CFR 200.307.

ARTICLE VIII
LOBBYING

8.1. Improper Influence. Grantee certifies that it will not use and has not used Grant Funds to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any government agency or a member or employee of the State or federal legislature in connection with the awarding of any agreement, the making of any grant, the making of any loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any agreement, grant, loan or cooperative agreement. Additionally, Grantee certifies that it has filed the required certification under the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 USC 1352), if applicable.

8.2. Federal Form LLL. If any federal funds, other than federally-appropriated funds, were paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the above persons in connection with this Agreement, the undersigned must also complete and submit Federal Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form, in accordance with its instructions.

8.3. Lobbying Costs. Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with the restrictions on lobbying set forth in 2 CFR 200.450. For any Indirect Costs associated with this Agreement, total lobbying costs must be separately identified in the Program Budget, and thereafter treated as other Unallowable Costs.

8.4. Procurement Lobbying. Grantee warrants and certifies that it and, to the best of its knowledge, its subrecipients have complied and will comply with Illinois Executive Order No. 1 (2007) (EO 1-2007). EO 1-2007 generally prohibits grantees and subcontractors from hiring the then-serving Governor's family members to lobby procurement activities of the State, or any other unit of government in Illinois including local governments, if that procurement may result in a contract valued at over $25,000. This prohibition also applies to hiring for that same purpose any former State employee who had procurement authority at any time during the one-year period preceding the procurement lobbying activity.

8.5. Subawards. Grantee must include the language of this ARTICLE in the award documents for any subawards made pursuant to this Award at all tiers. All subrecipients are also subject to certification and disclosure. Pursuant to Appendix II(I) to 2 CFR Part 200, Grantee must forward all disclosures by contractors regarding this certification to Grantor.

8.6. Certification. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed to enter into this transaction and is a prerequisite for this transaction, pursuant to 31 USC 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certifications will be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000, and not more than $100,000, for each such failure.

ARTICLE IX
MAINTENANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF RECORDS; MONITORING

9.1. Records Retention. Grantee must maintain for three (3) years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report, adequate books, all financial records and, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to this Award, adequate to comply with 2 CFR 200.334, unless a different retention period is specified in 2 CFR 200.334, 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.430(a) and (b) or **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**. If any litigation, claim or audit is started before the expiration of the retention period, the records must be retained until all litigation, claims or audit exceptions involving the records have been resolved and final action taken.

9.2. Accessibility of Records. Grantee, in compliance with 2 CFR 200.337 and 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.430(f), must make books, records, related papers, supporting documentation and personnel relevant to this Agreement available to authorized Grantor representatives, the Illinois Auditor General, Illinois Attorney General, any Executive Inspector General, Grantor's Inspector General, federal authorities, any person identified in 2 CFR 200.337, and any other person as may be authorized by Grantor (including auditors), by the State of Illinois or by federal statute. Grantee must cooperate fully in any such audit or inquiry.

9.3. Failure to Maintain Books and Records. Failure to maintain adequate books, records and supporting documentation, as described in this ARTICLE, will result in the disallowance of costs for which there is insufficient supporting documentation and also establishes a presumption in favor of the State for the recovery of any Grant Funds paid by the State under this Agreement for which adequate books, records and supporting documentation are not available to support disbursement.

9.4. Monitoring and Access to Information. Grantee must monitor its activities to assure compliance with applicable state and federal requirements and to assure its performance expectations are being achieved. Grantor will monitor the activities of Grantee to assure compliance with all requirements including applicable programmatic rules, regulations, and guidelines that the Grantor promulgates or implements, and performance expectations of the Award. Grantee must timely submit all financial and performance reports, and must supply, upon Grantor's request, documents and information relevant to the Award. Grantor may make site visits as warranted by Program needs. 2 CFR 200.329; 200.332. Additional monitoring requirements may be in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**.

ARTICLE X
FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

10.1. Required Periodic Financial Reports. Grantee must submit financial reports as requested and in the format required by Grantor no later than the dues date(s) specified in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**. Grantee must submit reports to Grantor describing the expenditure(s) of the funds related thereto at intervals specified by Grantor, which must be no less than annually and no more frequently than quarterly, unless otherwise specified in either **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** (approved as an exception by GATU) or on Exhibit E pursuant to specific conditions. 2 CFR 200.328(b). Any report required by 30 ILCS 708/125 may be detailed in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**.

10.2. Financial Close-out Report.

(a) Grantee must submit a financial Close-out Report, in the format required by Grantor, by the due date specified in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**, which must be no later than sixty (60) calendar days following the end of the Period of Performance for this Agreement or Agreement termination. The format of this financial Close-out Report must follow a format prescribed by Grantor. 2 CFR 200.344; 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.440(b).

(b) If an audit or review of Grantee occurs and results in adjustments after Grantee submits a Close-out Report, Grantee must submit a new financial Close-out Report based on audit adjustments, and immediately submit a refund to Grantor, if applicable. 2 CFR 200.345; 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.450.

10.3. Effect of Failure to Comply. Failure to comply with the reporting requirements in this Agreement may cause a delay or suspension of funding or require the return of improper payments or Unallowable Costs, and will be considered a material breach of this Agreement. Grantee's failure to comply with ARTICLE X, ARTICLE XI, or ARTICLE XVII will be considered prima facie evidence of a breach and may be admitted as such, without further proof, into evidence in an administrative proceeding before Grantor, or in any other legal proceeding. Grantee should refer to the State Grantee

Compliance Enforcement System for policy and consequences for failure to comply. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.80.1.1.

ARTICLE XI
PERFORMANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

11.1. Required Periodic Performance Reports. Grantee must submit performance reports as requested and in the format required by Grantor no later than the due date(s) specified in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.410. Grantee must report to Grantor on the performance measures listed in **Exhibit D**, **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** at the intervals specified by Grantor, which must be no less frequent than annually and no more frequent than quarterly, unless otherwise specified in either **PART TWO or PART THREE** (approved as an exception by GATU), or on **Exhibit E** pursuant to specific conditions. For certain construction-related Awards, such reports may be exempted as identified in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**. 2 CFR 200.329.

11.2. Performance Close-out Report. Grantee must submit a performance Close-out Report, in the format required by Grantor by the due date specified in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE,** which must be no later than 60 calendar days following the end of the Period of Performance or Agreement termination. 2 CFR 200.344; 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.440(b).

11.3. Content of Performance Reports. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.329(b) and (c), all performance reports must relate the financial data and project or program accomplishments to the performance goals and objectives of this Award and also include the following: a comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives of the Award established for the reporting period (for example, comparing costs to units of accomplishment); a computation of the cost and demonstration of cost effective practices (e.g., through unit cost data); performance trend data and analysis if required; the reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and additional information, analysis, and explanation of any cost overruns or higher-than-expected unit costs. Additional content and format guidelines for the performance reports will be determined by Grantor contingent on the Award's statutory, regulatory and administrative requirements, and are included in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XII
AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

12.1. Audits. Grantee is subject to the audit requirements contained in the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules and policies set forth by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. 30 ILCS 708/65(c); 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.90.

12.2. Consolidated Year-End Financial Reports (CYEFR). All grantees must complete and submit a CYEFR through the Grantee Portal, except those exempted by federal or State statute or regulation, as set forth in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**. The CYEFR is a required schedule in Grantee's audit report if Grantee is required to complete and submit an audit report as set forth herein.

(a) Grantee's CYEFR must cover the same period as the audited financial statements, if required, and must be submitted in accordance with the audit schedule at 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.90. If Grantee is not required to complete audited financial statements, the CYEFR must cover Grantee's fiscal year and must be submitted within 6 months of the Grantee's fiscal year-end.

(b) The CYEFR must include an in relation to opinion from the auditor of the financial statements included in the audit.

(c) The CYEFR must follow a format prescribed by Grantor.

12.3. Entities That Are Not "For-Profit".

(a) This Paragraph applies to Grantees that are not "for-profit" entities.

(b) Single and Program-Specific Audits. If, during its fiscal year, Grantee expends at least $1,000,000 in federal Awards (direct federal and federal pass-through awards combined), Grantee must have a single audit or program-specific audit conducted for that year as required by 2 CFR 200.501 and other applicable sections of Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200. The audit report packet must be completed as described in 2 CFR 200.512 (single audit) or 2 CFR 200.507 (program-specific audit), 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.90(h)(1) and the current GATA audit manual and submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, as required by 2 CFR 200.512. The results of peer and external quality control reviews, management letters issued by the auditors and their respective corrective action plans if significant deficiencies or material weaknesses are identified, and the CYEFR(s) must be submitted to the Grantee Portal at the same time the audit report packet is submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. The due date of all required submissions set forth in this Paragraph is the earlier of (i) thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the auditor's report(s) or (ii) nine (9) months after the end of Grantee's audit period.

(c) Financial Statement Audit. If, during its fiscal year, Grantee expends less than the threshold amount $1,000,000 in federal Awards, Grantee is subject to the following audit requirements:

(i) If, during its fiscal year, Grantee expends at least $750,000 in State-issued Awards, Grantee must have a financial statement audit conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS). Grantee may be subject to additional requirements in **PART TWO, PART THREE** or **Exhibit E** based on Grantee's risk profile.

(ii) If, during its fiscal year, Grantee expends less than $750,000 in State-issued Awards, but expends at least the $500,000 in State-issued Awards, Grantee must have a financial statement audit conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS).

(iii) If Grantee is a Local Education Agency (as defined in 34 CFR 77.1), Grantee must have a financial statement audit conducted in accordance with GAGAS, as required by 23 Ill. Admin. Code 100.110, regardless of the dollar amount of expenditures of State-issued Awards.

(iv) If Grantee does not meet the requirements in subsections 12.3(b) and 12.3(c)(i-iii) but is required to have a financial statement audit conducted based on other regulatory requirements, Grantee must submit those audits for review.

(v) Grantee must submit its financial statement audit report packet, as set forth in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.90(h)(2) and the current GATA audit manual, to the Grantee Portal within the earlier of (i) thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the auditor's report(s) or (ii) six (6) months after the end of Grantee's audit period.(i)

12.4. "For-Profit" Entities.

(a) This Paragraph applies to Grantees that are "for-profit" entities.

(b) Program-Specific Audit. If, during its fiscal year, Grantee expends at least $1,000,000 in federal pass-through funds from State-issued Awards, Grantee must have a program-specific audit conducted in accordance with 2 CFR 200.507. The auditor must audit federal pass-through programs with federal pass-through Awards expended that, in the aggregate, cover at least 50 percent (0.50) of total federal pass-through Awards expended. The audit report packet must be completed as described in 2 CFR 200.507 (program-specific audit), 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.90 and the current GATA audit manual, and must be submitted to the Grantee Portal. The due date of all required submissions set forth in this Paragraph is the earlier of (i) thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the auditor's report(s) or (ii) nine (9) months after the end of Grantee's audit period.

(c) Financial Statement Audit. If, during its fiscal year, Grantee expends less than at least $1,000,000 in federal pass-through funds from State-issued Awards, Grantee must follow all of the audit requirements in Paragraphs 12.3(c)(i)-(v), above.

(d) Publicly-Traded Entities. If Grantee is a publicly-traded company, Grantee is not subject to the single audit or program-specific audit requirements, but must submit its annual audit conducted in accordance with its regulatory requirements.

12.5. Performance of Audits. For those organizations required to submit an independent audit report, the audit must be conducted by the Illinois Auditor General (as required for certain governmental entities only), or a Certified Public Accountant or Certified Public Accounting Firm licensed in the State of Illinois or in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Illinois Public Accounting Act (225 ILCS 450/5.2). For all audits required to be performed subject to GAGAS or Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, Grantee must request and maintain on file a copy of the auditor's most recent peer review report and acceptance letter. Grantee must follow procedures prescribed by Grantor for the preparation and submission of audit reports and any related documents.

12.6. Delinquent Reports. When audit reports or financial statements required under this ARTICLE are prepared by the Illinois Auditor General, if they are not available by the above-specified due date, they must be provided to Grantor within thirty (30) days of becoming available. Grantee should refer to the State Grantee Compliance Enforcement System for the policy and consequences for late reporting. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.80.

ARTICLE XIII
TERMINATION; SUSPENSION; NON-COMPLIANCE

13.1. Termination.

(a) Either Party may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, upon thirty (30) calendar days' prior written notice to the other Party.

(b) If terminated by the Grantee, Grantee must include the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and, in the case of a partial termination, the portion to be terminated. If Grantor determines in the case of a partial termination that the reduced or modified portion of the Award will not accomplish the purposes for which the Award was made, Grantor may terminate the Agreement in its entirety. 2 CFR 200.340(a)(3).

(c) This Agreement may be terminated, in whole or in part, by Grantor:

(i) Pursuant to a funding failure under Paragraph 4.1;

(ii) If Grantee fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this or any Award, application or proposal, including any applicable rules or regulations, or has made a false representation in connection with the receipt of this or any Award; or

(iii) If the Award no longer effectuates the Program goals or agency priorities, and if this termination is permitted in the terms and conditions of the Award, which must be detailed in **Exhibit A**, **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**.

13.2. Suspension. Grantor may suspend this Agreement, in whole or in part, pursuant to a funding failure under Paragraph 4.1 or if the Grantee fails to comply with terms and conditions of this or any Award. If suspension is due to Grantee's failure to comply, Grantor may withhold further payment and prohibit Grantee from incurring additional Obligations pending corrective action by Grantee or a decision to terminate this Agreement by Grantor. Grantor may allow necessary and proper costs that Grantee could not reasonably avoid during the period of suspension.

13.3. Non-compliance. If Grantee fails to comply with the U.S. Constitution, applicable statutes, regulations or the terms and conditions of this or any Award, Grantor may impose additional conditions on Grantee, as described in 2 CFR 200.208. If Grantor determines that non-compliance cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, Grantor may take one or more of the actions described in 2 CFR 200.339. The Parties must follow all Grantor policies and procedures regarding non-compliance, including, but not limited to, the procedures set forth in the State Grantee Compliance Enforcement System. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.80 and 7000.260.

13.4. Objection. If Grantor suspends or terminates this Agreement, in whole or in part, for cause, or takes any other action in response to Grantee's non-compliance, Grantee may avail itself of any opportunities to object and challenge such suspension, termination or other action by Grantor in accordance with any applicable processes and procedures, including, but not limited to, the procedures set forth in the State Grantee Compliance Enforcement System. 2 CFR 200.342; 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.80 and 7000.260.

13.5. Effects of Suspension and Termination.

(a) Grantor may credit Grantee for allowable expenditures incurred in the performance of authorized services under this Agreement prior to the effective date of a suspension or termination.

(b) Except as set forth in subparagraph (c), below, Grantee must not incur any costs or Obligations that require the use of Grant Funds after the effective date of a suspension or termination, and must cancel as many outstanding Obligations as possible.

(c) Costs to Grantee resulting from Obligations incurred by Grantee during a suspension or after termination of the Agreement are not allowable unless Grantor expressly authorizes them in the notice of suspension or termination or subsequently. However, Grantor may allow costs during a suspension or after termination if:

(i) The costs result from Obligations properly incurred before the effective date of suspension or termination, are not in anticipation of the suspension or termination, and the costs would be allowable if the Agreement was not suspended or terminated prematurely. 2 CFR 200.343.

13.6. Close-out of Terminated Agreements. If this Agreement is terminated, in whole or in part, the Parties must comply with all close-out and post-termination requirements of this Agreement. 2 CFR 200.340(d).

ARTICLE XIV
SUBCONTRACTS/SUBAWARDS

14.1. Subcontracting/Subrecipients/Delegation. Grantee must not subcontract nor issue a subaward for any portion of this Agreement nor delegate any duties hereunder without Prior Approval of Grantor. The requirement for Prior Approval is satisfied if the subcontractor or subrecipient has been identified in the uniform grant application, such as, without limitation, a Project description, and Grantor has approved. Grantee must follow all applicable requirements set forth in 2 CFR 200.332.

14.2. Application of Terms. If Grantee enters into a subaward agreement with a subrecipient, Grantee must notify the subrecipient of the applicable laws and regulations and terms and conditions of this Award by attaching this Agreement to the subaward agreement. The terms of this Agreement apply to all subawards authorized in accordance with Paragraph 14.1. 2 CFR 200.101(b).

14.3. Liability as Guaranty. Grantee will be liable as guarantor for any Grant Funds it obligates to a subrecipient or subcontractor pursuant to this ARTICLE in the event Grantor determines the funds were either misspent or are being improperly held and the subrecipient or subcontractor is insolvent or otherwise fails to return the funds. 2 CFR 200.345; 30 ILCS 705/6; 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.450(a).

ARTICLE XV
NOTICE OF CHANGE

15.1. Notice of Change. Grantee must notify Grantor if there is a change in Grantee's legal status, FEIN, UEI, SAM registration status, Related Parties, senior management (for non-governmental grantees only) or address. If the change is anticipated, Grantee must give thirty (30) days' prior written notice to Grantor. If the change is unanticipated, Grantee must give notice as soon as practicable thereafter. Grantor reserves the right to take any and all appropriate action as a result of such change(s).

15.2. Failure to Provide Notification. To the extent permitted by Illinois law (*see* Paragraph 21.2), Grantee must hold harmless Grantor for any acts or omissions of Grantor resulting from Grantee's failure to notify Grantor as required by Paragraph 15.1.

15.3. Notice of Impact. Grantee must notify Grantor in writing of any event, including, by not limited to, becoming a party to litigation, an investigation, or transaction that may have a material impact on Grantee's ability to perform under this Agreement. Grantee must provide notice to Grantor as soon as possible, but no later than five (5) days after Grantee becomes aware that the event may have a material impact.

15.4. Effect of Failure to Provide Notice. Failure to provide the notice described in this ARTICLE is grounds for termination of this Agreement and any costs incurred after the date notice should have been given may be disallowed.

ARTICLE XVI
STRUCTURAL REORGANIZATION AND RECONSTITUTION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP

16.1. Effect of Reorganization. This Agreement is made by and between Grantor and Grantee, as Grantee is currently organized and constituted. Grantor does not agree to continue this Agreement, or any license related thereto, should Grantee significantly reorganize or otherwise substantially change the character of its corporate structure, business structure or governance structure. Grantee must give Grantor prior notice of any such action or changes significantly affecting its overall structure or, for non-governmental grantees only, management makeup (for example, a merger or a corporate restructuring), and must provide all reasonable documentation necessary for Grantor to review the proposed transaction including financial records and corporate and shareholder minutes of any corporation which may be involved. Grantor reserves the right to terminate the Agreement based on whether the newly organized entity is able to carry out the requirements of the Award. This ARTICLE does not require Grantee to report on minor changes in the makeup of its board membership or governance structure, as applicable. Nevertheless, **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** may impose further restrictions. Failure to comply with this ARTICLE constitutes a material breach of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVII
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

17.1. Required Disclosures. Grantee must immediately disclose in writing any potential or actual Conflict of Interest to Grantor. 2 CFR 200.112; 30 ILCS 708/35. 1.1.

17.2. Prohibited Payments. Payments made by Grantor under this Agreement must not be used by Grantee to compensate, directly or indirectly, any person currently holding an elective office in this State including, but not limited to, a seat in the General Assembly. In addition, where Grantee is not an instrumentality of the State of Illinois, as described in this Paragraph, Grantee must request permission from Grantor to compensate, directly or indirectly, any person employed by an office or agency of the State of Illinois. An instrumentality of the State of Illinois includes, without limitation, State departments, agencies, boards, and State universities. An instrumentality of the State of Illinois does not include, without limitation, units of Local Government and related entities.

17.3. Request for Exemption. Grantee may request written approval from Grantor for an exemption from Paragraph 17.2. Grantee acknowledges that Grantor is under no obligation to provide such exemption and that Grantor may grant any such exemption subject to additional terms and conditions as Grantor may require.

ARTICLE XVIII
EQUIPMENT OR PROPERTY

18.1. Purchase of Equipment. For any equipment purchased in whole or in part with Grant Funds, if Grantor determines that Grantee has not met the conditions of 2 CFR 200.439, the costs for such equipment will be disallowed. Grantor must notify Grantee in writing that the purchase of equipment is disallowed.

18.2. Prohibition against Disposition/Encumbrance. Any equipment, material, or real property that Grantee purchases or improves with Grant Funds must not be sold, transferred, encumbered (other than original financing) or otherwise disposed of during the Award Term without Prior Approval of Grantor unless a longer period is required in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** and permitted by 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart D. Use or disposition of real property acquired or improved using Grant Funds must comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.311. Real property, equipment, and intangible property that are acquired or improved in whole or in part using Grant Funds are subject to the provisions of 2 CFR 200.316. Grantor may require the Grantee to record liens or other appropriate notices of record to indicate that personal or real property has been acquired or improved with this Award and that use and disposition conditions apply to the property.

18.3. Equipment and Procurement. Grantee must comply with the uniform standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.310 -200.316 governing the management and disposition of property, the cost of which was supported by Grant Funds. Any waiver from such compliance must be granted by either the President's Office of Management and Budget, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, or both, depending on the source of the Grant Funds used. Additionally, Grantee must comply with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.317-200.327 to establish procedures to use Grant Funds for the procurement of supplies and other expendable property, equipment, real property and other services.

18.4. Equipment Instructions. Grantee must obtain disposition instructions from Grantor when equipment, purchased in whole or in part with Grant Funds, is no longer needed for their original purpose. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, Grantor may require transfer of any equipment to Grantor or a third party for any reason, including, without limitation, if Grantor terminates the Award or Grantee no longer conducts Award activities. Grantee must properly maintain, track, use, store and insure the equipment according to applicable best practices, manufacturer's guidelines, federal and state laws or rules, and Grantor requirements stated herein.

18.5. Domestic Preferences for Procurements. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.322, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with law, Grantee must, under this Award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of this Paragraph must be included in all subawards and in all contracts and purchase orders under this Award.

ARTICLE XIX
PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS; PRIOR NOTIFICATION

19.1. Promotional and Written Materials. Use of Grant Funds for promotions is subject to the prohibitions for advertising or public relations costs in 2 CFR 200.421(e). To use Grant Funds in whole or in part to produce any written publications, announcements, reports, flyers, brochures or other written materials, these uses must be allowable under 2 CFR 200.421 and 200.467 and Grantee must include in these publications, announcements, reports, flyers, brochures and all other such material, the phrase “Funding provided in whole or in part by the [Grantor].” 2 CFR 200.467. Exceptions to this requirement must be requested, in writing, from Grantor and will be considered authorized only upon written notice thereof to Grantee.

19.2. Prior Notification/Release of Information. Grantee must notify Grantor ten (10) days prior to issuing public announcements or press releases concerning work performed pursuant to this Agreement, or funded in whole or in part by this Agreement, and must cooperate with Grantor in joint or coordinated releases of information.

ARTICLE XX
INSURANCE

20.1. Maintenance of Insurance. Grantee must maintain in full force and effect during the Term of this Agreement casualty and bodily injury insurance, as well as insurance sufficient to cover the replacement cost of any and all real or personal property (including equipment), or both, purchased or, otherwise acquired, or improved in whole or in part, with funds disbursed pursuant to this Agreement. 2 CFR 200.310. Additional insurance requirements may be detailed in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**.

20.2. Claims. If a claim is submitted for real or personal property, or both, purchased in whole with funds from this Agreement and such claim results in the recovery of money, such money recovered must be surrendered to Grantor.

ARTICLE XXI
LAWSUITS AND INDEMNIFICATION

21.1. Independent Contractor. Neither Grantee nor any employee or agent of Grantee acquires any employment rights with Grantor by virtue of this Agreement. Grantee must provide the agreed services and achieve the specified results free from the direction or control of Grantor as to the means and methods of performance. Grantee must provide its own equipment and supplies necessary to conduct its business; provided, however, that in the event, for its convenience or otherwise, Grantor makes any such equipment or supplies available to Grantee, Grantee's use of such equipment or supplies provided by Grantor pursuant to this Agreement is strictly limited to official Grantor or State of Illinois business and not for any other purpose, including any personal benefit or gain.

21.2. Indemnification and Liability.

(a) **Non-governmental entities**. This subparagraph applies only if Grantee is a non-governmental entity. Grantee must hold harmless Grantor against any and all liability, loss, damage, cost or expenses, including attorneys' fees, arising from the intentional torts, negligence or breach of contract of Grantee, with the exception of acts performed in conformance with an explicit, written directive of Grantor. Indemnification by Grantor is governed by the State Employee Indemnification Act (5 ILCS 350/.01 *et seq.*) as interpreted by the Illinois Attorney General. Grantor makes no representation that Grantee, an independent contractor, will qualify or be eligible for indemnification under said Act.

(b) **Governmental entities**. This subparagraph applies only if Grantee is a governmental unit as designated in Paragraph 3.2. Neither Party shall be liable for actions chargeable to the other Party under this Agreement including, but not limited to, the negligent acts and omissions of the other Party's agents, employees or subcontractors in the performance of their duties as described under this Agreement, unless such liability is imposed by law. This Agreement is not construed as seeking to enlarge or diminish any obligation or duty owed by one Party against the other or against a third party.

ARTICLE XXII
MISCELLANEOUS

22.1. Gift Ban. Grantee is prohibited from giving gifts to State employees pursuant to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/10-10) and Illinois Executive Order 15-09.

22.2. Assignment Prohibited. This Agreement must not be sold, assigned, or transferred in any manner by Grantee, to include an assignment of Grantee's rights to receive payment hereunder, and any actual or attempted sale, assignment, or transfer by Grantee without the Prior Approval of Grantor in writing renders this Agreement null, void and of no further effect.

22.3. Copies of Agreements upon Request. Grantee must, upon request by Grantor, provide Grantor with copies of contracts or other agreements to which Grantee is a party with any other State agency.

22.4. Amendments. This Agreement may be modified or amended at any time during its Term by mutual consent of the Parties, expressed in writing and signed by the Parties.

22.5. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is declared invalid, its other provisions will remain in effect.

22.6. No Waiver. The failure of either Party to assert any right or remedy pursuant to this Agreement will not be construed as a waiver of either Party's right to assert such right or remedy at a later time or constitute a course of business upon which either Party may rely for the purpose of denial of such a right or remedy.

22.7. Applicable Law; Claims. This Agreement and all subsequent amendments thereto, if any, are governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois. Any claim against Grantor arising out of this Agreement must be filed exclusively with the Illinois Court of Claims. 705 ILCS 505/1 *et seq.* Grantor does not waive sovereign immunity by entering into this Agreement.

22.8. Compliance with Law. Grantee is responsible for ensuring that Grantee's Obligations and services hereunder are performed in compliance with all applicable federal and State laws, including, without limitation, federal regulations, State administrative rules, including but not limited to 44 Ill. Admin. Code Part 7000, laws and rules which govern disclosure of confidential records or other information obtained by Grantee concerning persons served under this Agreement, and any license requirements or professional certification provisions.

22.9. Compliance with Freedom of Information Act. Upon request, Grantee must make available to Grantor all documents in its possession that Grantor deems necessary to comply with requests made under the Freedom of Information Act. 5 ILCS 140/7(2).

22.10 1.1. Compliance with Whistleblower Protections. Grantee must comply with the Whistleblower Act (740 ILCS 174/1 *et seq*.) and the whistleblower protections set forth in 2 CFR 200.217, including but not limited to, the requirement that Grantee and its subrecipients inform their employees in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712.

22.11. Precedence.

(a) Except as set forth in subparagraph (b), below, the following rules of precedence are controlling for this Agreement: In the event there is a conflict between this Agreement and any of the exhibits or attachments hereto, this Agreement controls. In the event there is a conflict between **PART ONE** and **PART TWO** or **PART THREE** of this Agreement, **PART ONE** controls. In the event there is a conflict between **PART TWO** and **PART THREE** of this Agreement, **PART TWO** controls. In the event there is a conflict between this Agreement and relevant statute(s) or rule(s), the relevant statute(s) or rule(s) controls.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions in subparagraph (a), above, if a relevant federal or state statute(s) or rule(s) requires an exception to this Agreement's provisions, or an exception to a requirement in this Agreement is granted by GATU, such exceptions must be noted in **PART TWO** or **PART THREE**, and in such cases, those requirements control.

22.12. Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act. In the event of a conflict between the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act and the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, the provisions of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act control. 30 ILCS 708/80.

22.13. Headings. Articles and other headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and are not intended to define or limit the scope, extent or intent of this Agreement or any provision hereof.

22.14. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which are considered to be one and the same agreement, binding on all Parties hereto, notwithstanding that all Parties are not signatories to the same counterpart. Duplicated signatures, signatures transmitted via facsimile, or signatures contained in a Portable Document Format (PDF) document are deemed original for all purposes.

22.15. Attorney Fees and Costs. Unless prohibited by law, if Grantor prevails in any proceeding to enforce the terms of this Agreement, including any administrative hearing pursuant to the Grant Funds Recovery Act or the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, Grantor has the right to recover reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses associated with such proceedings.

22.16. Continuing Responsibilities. The termination or expiration of this Agreement does not affect: (a) the right of Grantor to disallow costs and recover funds based on a later audit or other review; (b) the obligation of the Grantee to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections or other transactions, including, without limitation, final Indirect Cost Rate adjustments and those funds obligated pursuant to ARTICLE XIV; (c) the CYEFR(s); (d) audit requirements established in 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.90 and ARTICLE XII ; (e) property management and disposition requirements established in 2 CFR 200.310 through 2 CFR 200.316 and ARTICLE XVIII; or (f) records related requirements pursuant to ARTICLE IX. 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.440.

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Agreement No. 26GIGO05 (27-2388-20787)

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will implement green infrastructure best management practices (BMP) in the Kent Creek watershed (07090005016) to reduce stormwater runoff to protect water quality. The Beverly Park Floodplain Reconnection project includes replacing a concrete channel with a natural two stage channel to allow storm water to inundate a designed floodplain bench, and riparian corridor restoration by planting native prairie and wetland plants designed to facilitate bio-infiltration and reduce runoff entering the North Fork Kent Creek (IL_PSB-01).

OUTPUTS:
• 2000 Linear Feet of Two Stage Ditch

OUTCOMES:
• 3,200,000 gallons of increased stormwater retention and infiltration.
• Decreased flooding and reduced stormwater delivery the North Fork Kent Creek (IL_PSB-01).

EXHIBIT B

DELIVERABLES OR MILESTONES

Description	Completion Date
PROJECT COORDINATION	
1. Project Coordination	May 31, 2028
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) IMPLEMENTATION	
2. BMP Documentation Form (Part 1) and Design	December 31, 2026
O&M Plan	December 31, 2026
Sign Design	December 31, 2026
Landowner Agreement	December 31, 2026
Last Day to Start BMP Implementation	November 30, 2027
Complete Implementation of BMPs	January 31, 2028
BMP Documentation Form (Part 2) w/Invoices and Photo Documentation	February 28, 2028, or within 60 days of BMP completion, whichever is first.
PROJECT REPORT	
3. Project Report	February 28, 2028, or within 60 days of BMP completion, whichever is first.
OTHER DIRECTED ACTIVITIES	
Periodic Performance and Financial Reports	Quarterly as stipulated
Annual Financial Reports	Annually as stipulated

EXHIBIT C

CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACTS FOR NOTIFICATION AND GRANT ADMINISTRATION:

Unless specified elsewhere, all notices required or desired to be sent by either Party must be sent to the persons listed below. Grantee must notify Grantor of any changes in its contact information listed below within five (5) business days from the effective date of the change, and Grantor must notify Grantee of any changes to its contact information as soon as practicable. The Party making a change must send any changes in writing to the contact for the other Party. No amendment to this Agreement is required if information in this Exhibit is changed.

FOR OFFICIAL GRANT NOTIFICATIONS

GRANTOR CONTACT

Name: **Riley Rominger**

Title: Environmental Specialist I

Address: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Nonpoint Source Unit Mail
Code #15, P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Additional Information

GRANTEE CONTACT

Name: **Timothy Hinkens**

Title: City Engineer

Address: 425 E State St
Rockford, Illinois 6110

GRANTEE PAYMENT ADDRESS
(if different than the address above)

Address:

FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION

GRANTOR CONTACT

Name: **Riley Rominger**

Title: Environmental Specialist I

Address:

Phone: (217) 782-3362

TTY#:

Email Address: riley.rominger@illinois.gov

GRANTEE CONTACT

Name: **Timothy Hinkens**

Title: City Engineer

Address:

Phone: (779) 348-7647

TTY#:

Email Address: timothy.hinkens@rockfordil.gov

EXHIBIT D

PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STANDARDS

PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Under this Agreement, the Grantee shall complete* the following tasks.

*All submissions shall be sent to the Grantor Contact as identified in Exhibit C of this Agreement and shall be submitted electronically unless otherwise specified by the Grantor.

PROJECT COORDINATION

1. The Grantee shall cause the development of designs and the implementation of the best management practices (BMP) identified in Exhibit A of this Agreement. The Grantee shall ensure that the BMPs are designed and implemented consistently with the GIGO Notice of Funding Opportunity. The Grantee shall secure any necessary permits prior to the implementation of the Design developed under Item 2 of Exhibit D of this Agreement.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) IMPLEMENTATION

2. The Grantee shall complete Part I of the GIGO BMP Documentation Form (BMP Part I) and compile all design supplemental information (Design) for the BMPs identified in Exhibit A of this Agreement. The Design shall include all plans and specifications, operation and maintenance plans (O&M Plan), a description of installation and construction techniques, and materials to be used (including plant species).

The Design shall meet the current requirements of at least one of the following documents: 1) the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Guide and Engineering Field Manual, 2) the Illinois Urban Manual, and/or 3) the Native Plant Guide for Streams and Stormwater Facilities in Northeastern Illinois. The Design shall be certified by a registered professional engineer unless the Grantee obtains a written waiver from this certification requirement from the Grantor.

BMP Part I and the Design shall be submitted by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval by December 31, 2026. Upon Grantor's request, Part I and the Design shall be re-submitted containing all required modifications by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval. No activities related to BMP implementation shall be started until the BMP Design is approved by the Grantor.

An Operation and Maintenance Plan (O&M plan) shall be developed to ensure the long-term viability (no less than 10 years) for the BMPs implemented under this Agreement. The O&M Plan shall identify inspection needs and management activities such as sediment and debris removal, replacement of vegetation and hardware, chemical treatment, etc. The O&M Plan shall identify both coordinating (i.e., local governments) and participating (i.e., citizen groups, landowners) parties to carry out inspection and management needs, as well as the financial resources necessary for implementation of the O&M Plan.

The O&M Plan shall be submitted by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval by December 31, 2026. Upon Grantor's request, the O&M Plan shall be re-submitted containing all required modifications by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval. No activities related to BMP implementation shall be started until the O&M Plan is approved by the Grantor.

The Grantee shall design a sign which acknowledges the participating agencies and identifies GIGO as a funding source of the project. The Grantee shall complete and submit a sign design to the Grantor for review and approval by December 31, 2026. Upon Grantor's request, the sign design shall be re-submitted containing all required modifications by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval. The Grantee shall erect the sign prior to the installation of the BMP(s) and for a period thereafter as mutually agreed upon by the Grantee and the Grantor.

In the event that the Grantee does not own the entire project site, the Grantee shall enter into legally binding agreements with participating landowners to ensure that the BMPs are maintained as designed and that the O&M Plans are implemented for no less than 10 years from the implementation of the BMPs. The Grantee shall submit a draft of the agreement to the Grantor for review and approval by December 31, 2026. Upon Grantor's request, the draft landowner agreement shall be re-submitted containing all required modifications by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval. The Grantee shall submit a copy of the executed agreement(s) to the Grantor prior to the implementation of the BMP.

Implementation of the BMP Designs developed in accordance with Item 2 of Exhibit D of this Agreement must begin by November 30, 2027. If construction and implementation of the Designs has not begun by November 30, 2027, the Grantee, or its Assigns, shall immediately discontinue all work on the Design implementation, unless an extension is requested by the Grantee and approved by the Grantor prior to November 1, 2027. In the event of such a discontinuation of work, limited costs incurred in association with the BMP Design will be eligible for reimbursement by the Grantor.

The Grantee shall complete the implementation of the BMPs by January 31, 2028. Upon completion of the BMPs, the Grantee shall complete and submit Part II of the GIGO BMP Documentation Form with all supporting documentation to the Grantor by February 28, 2028, or within 60 days of BMP completion, whichever is first. Upon Grantor's request, Part II shall be re-submitted containing all required modifications by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval. Support documentation includes invoice and photographic documentation.

PROJECT REPORT

3. The Grantee shall evaluate and prepare a report on the success of the Beverly Park Floodplain Reconnection Project in terms of stormwater runoff and flood control. The report shall document the grant agreement number, the project period, project title, project tasks, implementation schedule, and budget. For all BMP implementation developed under Item 2 of this Agreement, the report shall include pre and post conditions, type and location of practices, plans and specifications, the O & M Plan, a description of installation and construction techniques, and materials used (including plant species). The report shall be completed and submitted by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval by February 28, 2028, or within 60 days of BMP installation, whichever is first. Upon Grantor's request, the report shall be re-submitted containing all required modifications by the Grantee to the Grantor for review and approval. Upon Grantor approval, the Grantee shall submit two (2) paper copies and one (1) electronic copy of the report to the Grantor by the end of the Agreement Term.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
All products produced, and all work performed by the Grantee under this Agreement shall be subject to review and approval by the Grantor to determine eligibility and acceptability in meeting the terms and intent of this Agreement.

The Grantee shall be responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, timely completion, and the coordination of all services furnished by the Grantee under this Agreement. The Grantee must, without additional financial assistance, correct or revise any errors or deficiencies in its services.

The Grantee will perform such services as necessary to accomplish the objectives of this Agreement, in accordance with all the terms of this Agreement.

EXHIBIT E

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Grantor may remove (or reduce) a Specific Condition included in this Exhibit by proving written notice to the Grantee, in accordance with established procedures for removing a Specific Condition.

Audit Requires desk review of the status of implementation of corrective actions. Corrective Action: Address all audit findings giving priority to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses by implementation of the corrective action plan. Condition may be removed upon request when corrective action is complete.

PART TWO -GRANTOR-SPECIFIC TERMS

In addition to the uniform requirements in **PART ONE**, Grantor has the following additional requirements for its Grantee:

ARTICLE XXIII
REPORTING

23.1. Grantee shall file a Quarterly Periodic Financial Report (PFR) and Periodic Performance Report (PPR) for quarters ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 , with the Grantor describing the expenditure(s) of the funds and performance measures related thereto.

The first Periodic Financial Report (PFR) and Periodic Performance Report shall cover the reporting period after the effective date of the Agreement. a Quarterly reports must be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report.

For the purpose of reconciliation, the Grantee must submit an annual Periodic Financial Report (PFR) for the period ending 12/31 (Grantee's Fiscal Year End date). This report should include the Grantee's entire Fiscal Year expenditures for this award. Reports must be submitted no later than 30 calendar days following the period covered by the report.

A Periodic Financial Report (PFR) and Periodic Performance Report (PPR) marked as “Final Report” must be submitted to Grantor 60 days after the end date of the Agreement. Failure to submit the required PFR and PPR reports may cause a delay or suspension of funding.

In addition to the aforementioned reporting requirements, Grantee shall submit the following reports:

In reference to Part One, Article XI, Item 11.3 of this Agreement, the Grantee will submit the performance report supplemental attachment using the following format. The first page will include the project title, agreement number, the period of time that the report covers, and a table showing the entire list of Deliverables or Milestones (Exhibit B) and all deliverables defined in the strategies developed under this grant. The table shall include the task, its scheduled completion date, and current status. The remainder of the report will include the items listed in Section 11.3, plus information regarding what happened during this quarter and what is scheduled for the upcoming quarter. For projects implementing best management practices, the report will include a table of all projects, which lists the project owner, estimated date to be completed, implementation status, and comments as needed.

PART THREE -PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS

In addition to the uniform requirements in **PART ONE** and Grantor-Specific Terms in **PART TWO**, Grantor has the following additional requirements for this Project:

In reference to Part One, Article IV, Item 4.8 of this Agreement, the Grantee is not required to submit payment requests to the Grantor within fifteen (15) days of the end of the quarter but may instead request reimbursement of incurred costs as needed within the Agreement Term but may do so no more frequently than once per month.

The Grantee and the Grantor have the right to use (including, but not limited to, citing to, circulating, displaying, and reproducing) all products that result from the Grantee receiving financial assistance under this Agreement whether the product is developed by the Grantee or a sub-grantee.

The Grantee will include in any publications for external general circulation (including brochures, newsletters, and presentations materials) the following phrase: “Funding for this project provided, in part, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities Program.”

The Grantee shall be available for coordination and progress briefings with the Grantor during the term of the Agreement. The dates and locations of these briefings shall be specified by the Grantor in consultation with the Grantee.

Upon completion of the Agreement, as a condition before final payment under the Agreement or as a termination settlement under the Agreement the Grantee must execute and deliver to the Grantor an amended Budget that reflects any and all budget line-item transfers made to the original Budget, unless already addressed in an executed amendment to the Budget.

When applicable, the Grantee must comply with requirements in the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act. For grants with an estimated total best management practices project cost of $500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative; 30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 559/20-25 and all applicable administrative rules. The “estimated total project cost” is a good faith approximation, at the time an applicant submits a grant application, of the costs of an entire project being paid for in whole or in part by appropriated capital funds to construct a public work. The goal of the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Grantees will be permitted to seek a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to 30 ILCS 559/20-20(b). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.

1. The Grantees that are required to comply shall submit to the Grantor an Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative Budget Supplement form within 90 days of executing this Intergovernmental Grant Agreement. The form is available at:
https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/WorkforceDevelopment/Pages/IllinoisWorksJobsProgramAct.aspx.

2. The Grantees that are required to comply shall submit quarterly reporting of apprenticeship goals until the project is complete even if the project extends beyond the original term of the Intergovernmental Grant Agreement. Quarterly reports must be submitted to the Grantor by the 15th of January, April, July, and October. Quarterly reports shall be submitted using the reporting form available at: https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/WorkforceDevelopment/Pages/IllinoisWorksJobsProgramAct.aspx.

Grantee certifies that all Programs for the construction of fixed works which are financed in whole or in part with funds provided by this Agreement shall be subject to the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.) unless the provisions of that Act exempt its application. In the construction of the Program, Grantee shall comply with the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act including, but not limited to, inserting into all contracts for such construction a stipulation to the effect that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as applicable to the Program shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the Award and requiring all bonds of contractors to include a provision as will guarantee the faithful performance of such prevailing wage clause as provided by contract.

26GIGO05 - Beverly Park Floodplain Reconnection – Submission Budget

Expected Start: **6/1/2026** Expected End: **5/31/2028**

Budget View Settings

Options

Show/Hide

- [ ] Grant Year
- [x] Line Items
- [ ] Assignee(s)
- [x] Match

Budget

Expense Budget	Grant-Funded Budgeted	Match Budgeted	Total Budgeted
1. Personnel (Salaries and Wages)			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
10. Research and Development (R&D)			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
11. Telecommunications			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
12. Training and Education			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
13. Direct Administrative Costs			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
14. Other or Miscellaneous Costs			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
2. Fringe Benefits			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
3. Travel			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
4. Equipment			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
5. Supplies			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
6. Contractual Services & Subawards			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
7. Consultant Services and Expenses			
Engineering Design Permitting and Survey	$12,913.00	$73,172.00	**$86,085.00**
Subtotal	$12,913.00	$73,172.00	**$86,085.00**
8. Construction			
Construction & Restoration	$600,638.00	$260,212.00	**$860,850.00**
Subtotal	$600,638.00	$260,212.00	**$860,850.00**
9. Occupancy (Rent and Utilities)			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
Indirect Cost			
Subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**
Total Expense Budget Cost	**$613,551.00**	**$333,384.00**	**$946,935.00**

Revenue Budget	Grant-Funded Budgeted	Match Budgeted	Total Revenue
Grant Funding			
Awarded Amount	$613,551.00		**$613,551.00**
Subtotal	$613,551.00		**$613,551.00**

Match

Cash Match	$333,384.00	**$333,384.00**
In-Kind	$0.00	**$0.00**
Other Funding	$0.00	**$0.00**
Subtotal	$333,384.00	**$333,384.00**
Total Revenue Budget Cost		**($946,935.00)**
Total Overall Budget Cost		**$0.00**

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: August 10, 2026

To: Planning and Development Committee
Members of City Council

From: Timothy Hinkens, P.E., City Engineer

Re: **Memo: Grant Award Acceptance (STBG- Harrison Avenue Reconstruction)**

In alignment with the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Region 1 Planning Commission's (R1PC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), City staff applied to utilize an allotment of R1PC's Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the Harrison Avenue Reconstruction project.

The Rockford Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee selected the City of Rockford's Harrison Avenue Reconstruction project to receive partial funding in the amount of **$4,349,410.00** for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2028. Per the CIP, this leaves the project with another $4M gap in funding in which the City will continue to seek STBG and other federal grant programs to make up this gap by FFY28. The City's match will come from motor fuel tax (MFT).

The project's scope is to reconstruct Harrison Avenue from Main Street to Kishwaukee Street including a road diet, decorative arterial lighting, sidewalk, and multi-use path. Currently the project is in preliminary engineering and anticipates to be ready for construction by late FFY27.

Please consider the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of the grant award. Please contact Timothy Hinkens, City Engineer, with any questions.

Rockford, Illinois Date: August 17, 2026

RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:

Council Members:

The Committee on Planning and Development having received a request hereby begs leave to report recommending **approval** of the acceptance to utilize an allotment of Region 1 Planning Commission's (R1PC) Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the amount of $4,349,410.00 for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2028 to implement the Harrison Avenue Reconstruction Project. The City will match $4M and will continue to seek STBG and other federal grants to make up this gap by FFY28. The Legal Director shall prepare the appropriate resolution.

____
Janessa Neal (Chair)

____
Tim Durkee (Vice Chair)

____
Karen Hoffman

____
Dawn Granath

____
Gina Meeks

Committee Action Taken: August 10, 2026

Neal:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Durkee:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Hoffman:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Granath:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____

Meeks: Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____

City Council Rooms, City of Rockford, Illinois

Date: August 10, 2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD

Resolution No:_____ ________

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford, Illinois has been selected by the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee to receive funds for the Harrison Avenue Reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, the grant has been awarded for the purpose of supporting surface transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford, Illinois will receive $4,349,410.00; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford intends use the funds to reimburse construction costs of the Harrison Avenue Reconstruction project; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rockford, Illinois, this **_______** day of August 2026.

____
Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor
City of Rockford, Illinois

ATTEST:

____
Angela Hammer, Legal Director and
Ex Officio Keeper of the Records and Seal of the
City of Rockford, Illinois

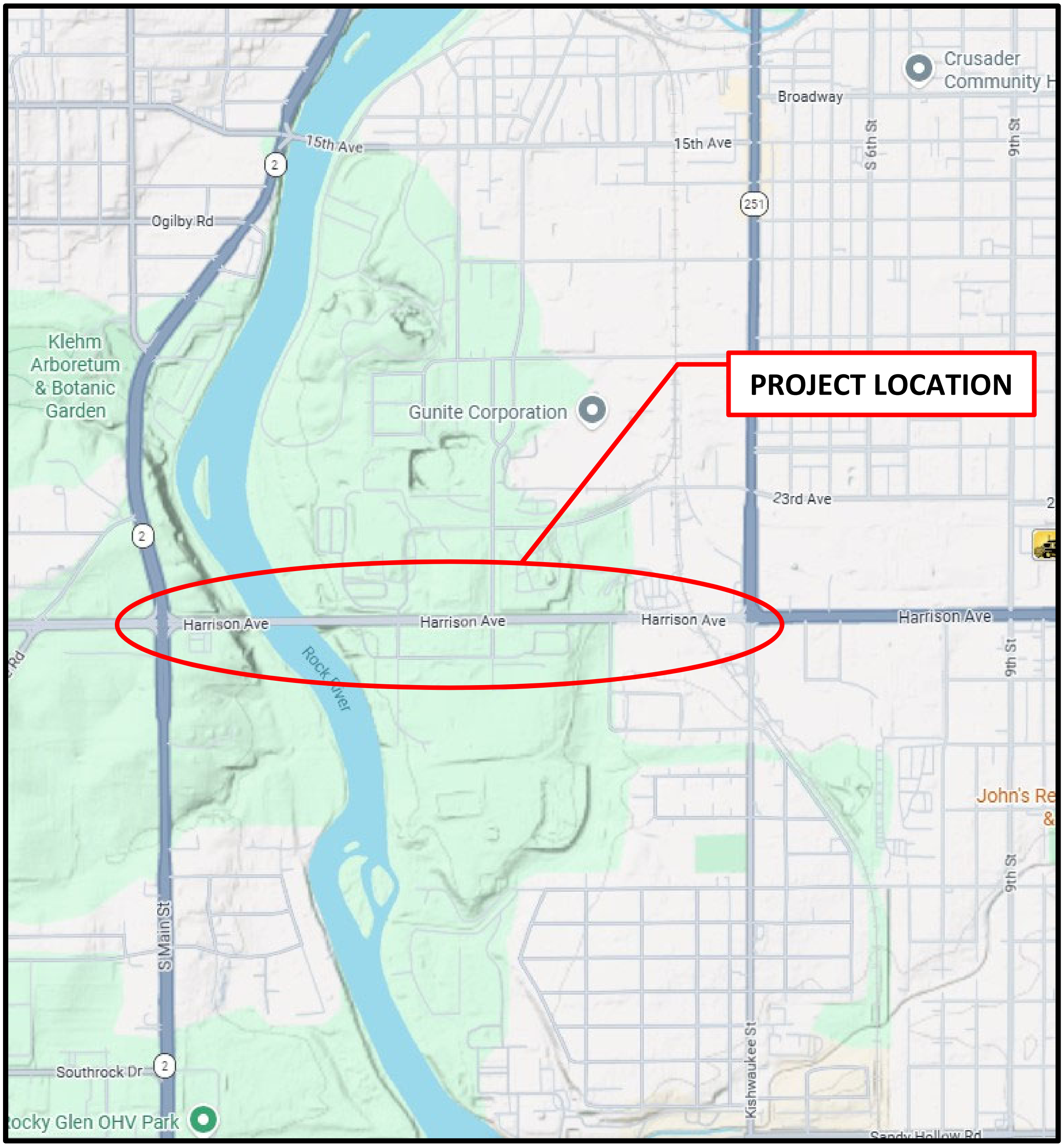
Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Location Map

(Harrison Avenue Reconstruction)



COLLABORATIVE PLANNING FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Attributable Funding Acceptance & Acknowledgment

Funding Recipient: City of Rockford

Funding Amount: $4,349,410

This Attributable Funding Award Acceptance and Acknowledgment (the "Agreement") is made and entered into May 11, 2026, (the "Effective Date") by and between Region 1 Planning Council ("Client") and the City of Rockford ("Awardee").

As the steward of these funds, it is the responsibility of Region 1 Planning Council (R1) to ensure the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) attributable funds are obligated in a timely manner and equitably distributed throughout the region. Therefore, the total project funding awarded to a single project is capped at no more than two (2) years of the annual sub-allocation per funding program. Any cost above this amount is the responsibility of the local sponsor.

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) are not grant programs; they operate on a reimbursement basis as work progresses. The reimbursement process for Local Public Agencies (LPA) are based on agreements with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and if eligible activities are state or local let. Costs for any activity that occurs prior to federal authorization of the project phase are not eligible for reimbursement. The sponsoring LPA will be responsible for those costs.

1. TERM OF AGREEMENT: This Agreement will become effective on **May 11, 2026,** and will continue in effect until **May 11, 2033.**

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND DELIVERABLES

2.1 PROPOSED PROJECT SCOPE: Harrison Avenue Reconstruction

2.2 PROJECT EXTENT: IL-2 (Main Street) to IL-251 (Kishwaukee Street)

2.3 TIMELINE: FY 2028

2.4 AWARDED AGENCY: City of Rockford

2.5 WHERE SERVICES ARE TO BE PERFORMED: Unless otherwise disclosed in this section all services shall be performed in the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary. If the Awardee performs the services purchased hereunder in another country in violation of this provision, such action may be deemed by the State as a breach of the contract by the Client.

Awardee shall disclose the locations where the services required shall be performed and the known or anticipated value of the services to be performed at each location. If the Awardee received additional consideration in the evaluation based on work being performed in the United States, it shall be a breach of contract if the Awardee shifts any such work outside the United States.

3. FUNDS: The availability of funds is subject to the type of budget authority authorized for Federal STBG funds. The time period established in legislation determines when funds must be obligated. **It will be important for projects to be timely in carrying out the project development process to prevent lapsing of these fund** if the Department of Transportation (DOT) cannot carry balances for the STBG program as a whole.

As noted above, awarded projects are expected to be authorized or let within five (5) years of the designated fiscal year for which the project is programmed. The start date of the five (5) years begins with the fiscal year of funds awarded to the project with a notation of the date of approval by the MPO Policy Committee. A project being awarded funds from fiscal year 2028 would be expected to be authorized or let no later than 2033. Awarded projects not proceeding to implementation within the five (5) years must request an administrative extension from the MPO Director or return the funds to the MPO pool for reprogramming. Changes to the scope of work, or elimination of key deliverables, will require administrative approval from the MPO Director.

Changes in scope of work from the original awarded application will be required to be approved by the MPO Policy Committee.

4. TERM AND TERMINATION

4.1 TERM OF THIS CONTRACT: This contract has an initial term of May 11, 2026 to May 11, 2033. If a start date is not identified, the term shall commence upon the last dated signature of the awardee.

4.1.1 In no event will the total term of the contract, including the initial term, any renewal terms, and any extensions, exceed ten (10) years. 30 ILCS 500/20-60

4.1.2 Awardee shall not commence billable work in furtherance of the contract prior to final execution of the contract except when permitted pursuant to 30 ILCS 500/20-80.

4.2 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE: The Client may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, immediately upon notice to the Awardee, if: (a) the State determines that the actions or inactions of the Awardee, its agents, employees or subcontractors have caused, or reasonably could cause, jeopardy to health, safety, or property, or (b) the Awardee has notified the State that it is unable or unwilling to perform the contract. Any STBG funding forfeited due to inability to complete the approved project within the allotted time frame will result in the Awardee also forfeiting any other STBG, CRP, and TAP funding, which will then be reallocated according to the recommendation and approval of the MPO Technical and Policy Committees. If the Awardee declines the awarded STBG, CRP, or TAP funds, other fiscal year attributable funded project awards will be forfeited.

If Awardee fails to perform to the Client’s satisfaction any material requirement of this contract, is in violation of a material provision of this contract, or the Client determines that the Awardee lacks the financial resources to perform the contract, the Client shall provide written notice to the Awardee to cure the problem identified within the period of time specified in the Client’s written notice. If not cured by that date the Client may either: (a) immediately terminate the contract without additional written notice or (b) enforce the terms and conditions of the contract.

For termination due to any of the causes contained in this Section, the Client retains its rights to seek any available legal or equitable remedies and damages.

4.3 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE: The Client may, for its convenience and with thirty (30) days prior written notice to Awardee, terminate this contract in whole or in part and without payment of any penalty or incurring any further obligation to the Awardee.

Upon submission of invoices and proof of claim, the Awardee shall be entitled to compensation for supplies and services provided in compliance with this contract up to and including the date of termination.

4.4 **AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATION:** This contract is contingent upon and subject to the availability of funds. The State, at its sole option, may terminate or suspend this contract, in whole or in part, without penalty or further payment being required, if (1) the Illinois General Assembly or the federal funding source fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such obligation, or if funds needed are insufficient for any reason (30 ILCS 500/20-60), (2) the Governor decreases the Client's funding by reserving some or all of the Client's appropriation(s) pursuant to power delegated to the Governor by the Illinois General Assembly, or (3) the Client determines, in its sole discretion or as directed by the Office of the Governor, that a reduction is necessary or advisable based upon actual or projected budgetary considerations. Awardee will be notified in writing of the failure of appropriation or of a reduction or decrease.

4.5 **PERFORMANCE RECORD; SUSPENSION:** Upon request of the Client, the Awardee shall meet to discuss performance or provide contract performance updates to help ensure proper performance of this contract. The Awardee shall include Client's representatives in all communication and meetings with IDOT, engineering teams, and consultant firms related to the attributable funded projects. The Client may consider Awardee's performance under this contract and compliance with law and rule to determine whether to continue this contract, suspend Awardee from doing future business with the Client for a specified period of time, or whether Awardee can be considered responsible on specific future contract opportunities.

4.6 **REPORTING, STATUS, AND MONITORING SPECIFICATIONS:** Awardee shall immediately notify the State of any event that may have a material impact on Awardee's ability to perform this contract.

The Client has the right to publicly promote any attributable funded project and award of funds. The Awardee is required to share and obtain approval from the Client any public relations or media releases prior to publishing.

5. **CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:** Unless otherwise required by law, Awardee will exercise reasonable effort to maintain in confidence information disclosed or submitted by Client as confidential information. Confidential information does not include information that:

a) is generally available in the public domain or becomes available to the public through an act of the Client;
b) is independently known prior to receipt; or
c) is made available to the public as a matter of lawful right by a third party.

Awardee shall not publish, distribute, advertise, or otherwise disclose the relationship and the general services created and performed under this Agreement without express written permission of the Client. Unless otherwise required by law, all reports, documents, and other deliverables created pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be treated by the Awardee as confidential and will not be made available to any unintended third party without the prior written approval of the Client. No reports or other documents produced in whole or in part pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be the subject of an application for copyright by the Awardee.

6. **ASSIGNMENT**: This contract may not be assigned or transferred in whole or in part by Awardee without the prior written consent of the Client.

7. **AUDIT/RETENTION OF RECORDS:** Awardee and its subcontractors shall maintain books and records relating to the performance of this contract and any subcontract necessary to support amounts charged to the State pursuant this contract or subcontract. Books and records, including information stored in databases or other computer systems, shall be maintained by the Awardee for a period of three (3) years from the later of the date of final payment under the contract or completion of the contract, and by the subcontractor for a period of three (3) years from the later of final payment under the term or completion of the subcontract. If Federal funds are used to pay contract costs, the Awardee and its subcontractors must retain their respective records for five (5) years. Books and records required to be maintained under this section shall be available for review or audit by representatives of the Awardee, the Auditor General, the Executive Inspector General, the Chief Procurement Officer, State of

Illinois internal auditors or other governmental entities with monitoring authority, upon reasonable notice and during normal business hours. Awardee and its subcontractors shall cooperate fully with any such audit and with any investigation conducted by any of these entities. Failure to maintain books and records required by this section shall establish a presumption in favor of the State for the recovery of any funds paid by the State under this contract or any subcontract for which adequate books and records are not available to support the purported disbursement. The Awardee or subcontractors shall not impose a charge for audit or examination of the Awardee or subcontractor's books and records. 30 ILCS 500/20-65

8. **INDEMNIFICATION:** Awardee agrees to indemnify and hold the Client and its employees harmless from any loss, claim, damage, or liability arising out of or in connection with the action or inaction of the Client under this Agreement, including but not limited to provision of data and information used for grant reporting purposes. Awardee shall indemnify and hold its employees harmless from any loss, claim, damage, or liability arising out of or in connection with Awardee's use of deliverables provided under this Agreement. If the Awardee fails to provide information that is needed for the completion of the project, or such information is incorrect, the Client is not liable unless it was aware of the inaccuracy or was unaware of the inaccuracy as a result of gross negligence. The Awardee shall indemnify and hold the Client and its employees harmless from any loss, claim, damage, or liability arising out of or in connection with this failure to provide information if it results in an inability to submit the project by the submission deadline.

   In the event that the Awardee elects to cancel the Agreement for any reason other than a material breach, the Client is hereby indemnified from any losses, potential or actual, incurred by the Awardee as a result of the work performed under this Agreement.

9. **REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES:** Awardee represents and warrants that it will perform the services with reasonable care and skill; and the services and related materials provided under this Agreement will not infringe or violate any intellectual property rights or other right of any third party.

10. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:** Either party's liability in contract, tort, or otherwise (including negligence) arising directly out of or in connection with this Agreement or the performance or observance of its obligations under this Agreement and every applicable part of it shall be limited in aggregate to the applicable insurance limits.

    Awardee assumes liability and responsibility for tax reporting and liabilities, and insurance to cover any negligent acts committed by Awardee or Awardee's employees or agents during the performance of any duties under this Agreement. The Client further agrees to hold the Awardee free and harmless from any and all claims arising from any such negligent act or omission.

11. **SEVERABILITY:** The invalidity or illegality of one or more provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions.

12. **APPLICABLE LAW:** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois.

13. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS:** This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties concerning the subject matter hereof. No amendments or changes to this Agreement shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each party.

14. **COUNTERPARTS:** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts (including digital signatures), each of which shall be deemed to be an original and both of which shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement by proper persons duly authorized.

Authorized Signors & Designated Contacts
To ensure prompt and accurate delivery of applicable communications, please provide the contact information for each of the relevant topics below.

Party	Region 1 Planning Council	Party	**Awardee:**
Signature		Signature	
Date Signed		Date Signed	
Signor Name	Michael Dunn Jr.	Signor Name	
Signor Title	Executive Director	Signor Title	
Agreement	Michael Dunn Jr. mdunn@r1planning.org (815)319-4180	Agreement	
Services		Services	
Billing		Billing	
Mail	127 N Wyman St, Ste 100 Rockford, IL 61101	Mail	

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: August 10, 2026

To: Planning and Development Committee
Members of City Council

From: Timothy Hinkens, P.E., City Engineer

Re: **Memo: Grant Award Acceptance (TAP- Highcrest MUP)**

In alignment with the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Region 1 Planning Commission's (R1PC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), City staff applied to utilize an allotment of R1PC's Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the Highcrest Multi-Use Path project.

The Rockford Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee selected the City of Rockford's Highcrest Multi-Use Path project to receive funding in the amount of **$1,271,066.00** for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2028. This funding will contribute to the project's already secured *$3,000,000.00* of federal Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds for construction. The City's match of 20% will come from motor fuel tax (MFT).

The project's scope is to narrow Highcrest Road to calm traffic and allow room for a multi-use path on the south side of Highcrest Road, ultimately connecting the existing pathway termination at Jacobi Place and Spring Creek to Augustana Drive.

Please consider the attached resolution authorizing the acceptance of the grant award. Please contact Timothy Hinkens, City Engineer, with any questions.

Rockford, Illinois Date: August 17, 2026

RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:

Council Members:

The Committee on Planning and Development having received a request hereby begs leave to report recommending **approval** of the acceptance to utilize an allotment of Region 1 Planning Commission's (R1PC) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the amount of $1,271,066.00 for the Federal Fiscal Year 2028 to implement the Highcrest Multi-Use Path project. This grant is in addition to the $3,000,000.00 grant received from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for the same project. The Legal Director shall prepare the appropriate resolution.

____
Janessa Neal (Chair)

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Tim Durkee (Vice Chair)

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Karen Hoffman

____
Dawn Granath

____
Gina Meeks

Committee Action Taken: August 10, 2026

Neal:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Durkee:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Hoffman:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____
Granath:	Ayes:___	Nays:____	Absent:____

Meeks: Ayes:___ Nays:____ Absent:____

City Council Rooms, City of Rockford, Illinois

Date: August 10, 2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD

Resolution No:_____ ________

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford, Illinois has been selected by the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee to receive funds for the Highcrest Multi-Use Path project; and

WHEREAS, the grant has been awarded for the purpose of supporting transportation alternative improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford, Illinois will receive $1,271,066.00; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford intends use the funds to reimburse construction costs of the Highcrest Multi-Use Path project; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rockford, Illinois, this _______ day of August 2026.

____
Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor
City of Rockford, Illinois

ATTEST:

____
Angela Hammer, Legal Director and
Ex Officio Keeper of the Records and Seal of the
City of Rockford, Illinois

Ayes:

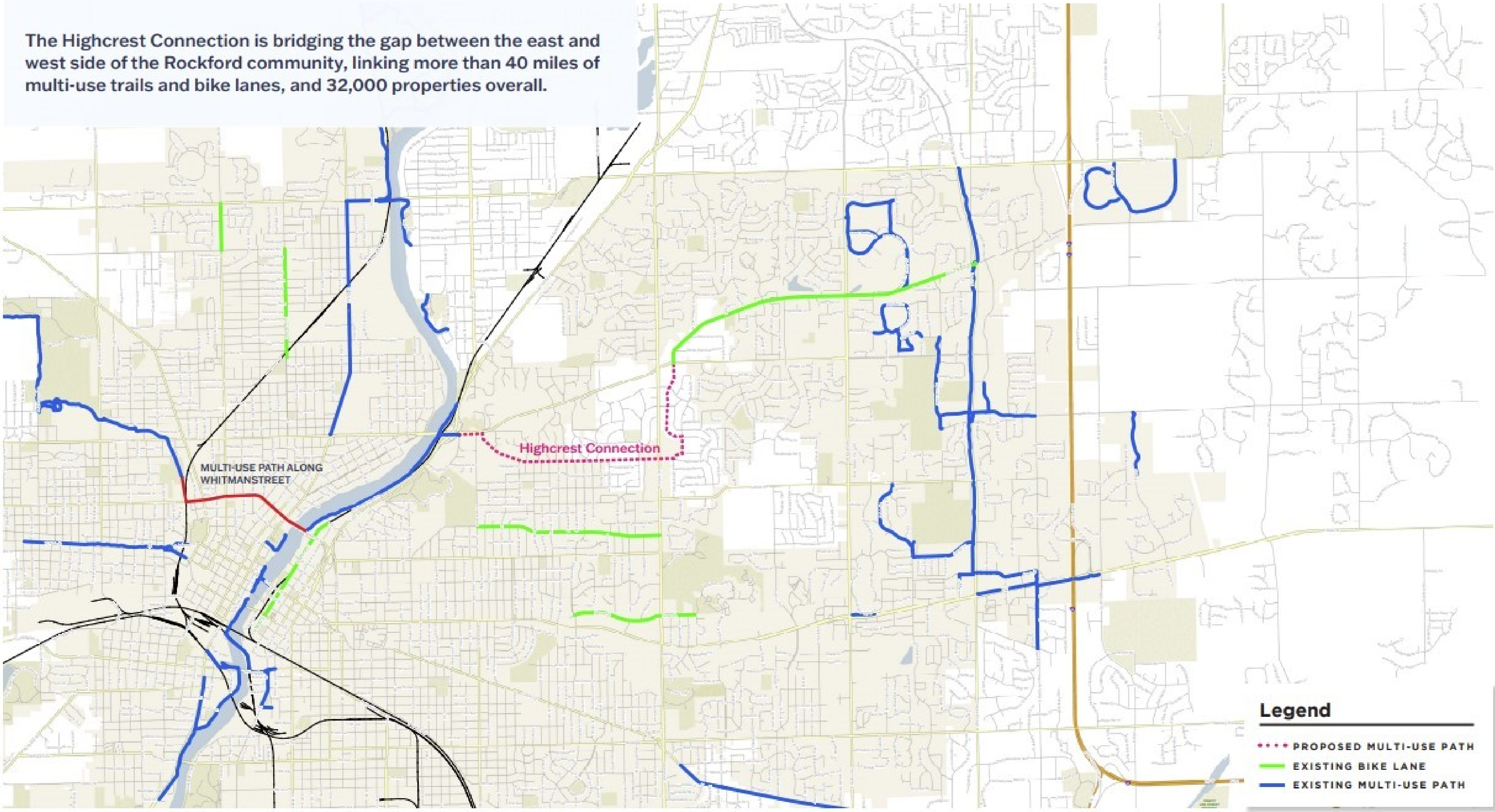
Nays:

Absent:

Highcrest Connection

STATION 1

The Highcrest Connection is bridging the gap between the east and west side of the Rockford community, linking more than 40 miles of multi-use trails and bike lanes, and 32,000 properties overall.



Attributable Funding Acceptance & Acknowledgment

Funding Recipient: City of Rockford

Funding Amount: $1,271,066

This Attributable Funding Award Acceptance and Acknowledgment (the "Agreement") is made and entered into May 11, 2026, (the "Effective Date") by and between Region 1 Planning Council ("Client") and City of Rockford ("Awardee").

As the steward of these funds, it is the responsibility of Region 1 Planning Council (R1) to ensure the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) attributable funds are obligated in a timely manner and equitably distributed throughout the region. Therefore, the total project funding awarded to a single project is capped at no more than two (2) years of the annual sub-allocation per funding program. Any cost above this amount is the responsibility of the local sponsor.

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) are not grant programs; they operate on a reimbursement basis as work progresses. The reimbursement process for Local Public Agencies (LPA) are based on agreements with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and if eligible activities are state or local let. Costs for any activity that occurs prior to federal authorization of the project phase are not eligible for reimbursement. The sponsoring LPA will be responsible for those costs.

1. **TERM OF AGREEMENT:** This Agreement will become effective on **May 11, 2026,** and will continue in effect until **May 11, 2033.**

2. **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND DELIVERABLES**

   2.1 **PROPOSED PROJECT SCOPE:** Highcrest Multiuse Path

   2.2 **PROJECT EXTENT:** IL-251 (2nd Street) to Augustana Drive

   2.3 **TIMELINE:** FY 2028

   2.4 **AWARDED AGENCY:** City of Rockford

   2.5 **WHERE SERVICES ARE TO BE PERFORMED:** Unless otherwise disclosed in this section all services shall be performed in the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary. If the Awardee performs the services purchased hereunder in another country in violation of this provision, such action may be deemed by the State as a breach of the contract by the Client.

   Awardee shall disclose the locations where the services required shall be performed and the known or anticipated value of the services to be performed at each location. If the Awardee received additional consideration in the evaluation based on work being performed in the United States, it shall be a breach of contract if the Awardee shifts any such work outside the United States.

3. **FUNDS:** The availability of funds is subject to the type of budget authority authorized for Federal TAP funds. The time period established in legislation determines when funds must be obligated. **It will be important for projects to be timely in carrying out the project development process to prevent lapsing of these fund** if the Department

of Transportation (DOT) cannot carry balances for the TAP program as a whole.

As noted above, awarded projects are expected to be authorized or let within five (5) years of the designated fiscal year for which the project is programmed. The start date of the five (5) years begins with the fiscal year of funds awarded to the project with a notation of the date of approval by the MPO Policy Committee. A project being awarded funds from fiscal year 2028 would be expected to be authorized or let no later than 2033. Awarded projects not proceeding to implementation within the five (5) years must request an administrative extension from the MPO Director or return the funds to the MPO pool for reprogramming. Changes to the scope of work, or elimination of key deliverables, will require administrative approval from the MPO Director.

Changes in scope of work from the original awarded application will be required to be approved by the MPO Policy Committee.

4. TERM AND TERMINATION

4.1 TERM OF THIS CONTRACT: This contract has an initial term of May 11, 2026 to May 11, 2033. If a start date is not identified, the term shall commence upon the last dated signature of the awardee.

4.1.1 In no event will the total term of the contract, including the initial term, any renewal terms, and any extensions, exceed ten (10) years. 30 ILCS 500/20-60

4.1.2 Awardee shall not commence billable work in furtherance of the contract prior to final execution of the contract except when permitted pursuant to 30 ILCS 500/20-80.

4.2 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE: The Client may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, immediately upon notice to the Awardee, if: (a) the State determines that the actions or inactions of the Awardee, its agents, employees or subcontractors have caused, or reasonably could cause, jeopardy to health, safety, or property, or (b) the Awardee has notified the State that it is unable or unwilling to perform the contract. Any STBG funding forfeited due to inability to complete the approved project within the allotted time frame will result in the Awardee also forfeiting any other STBG, CRP, and TAP funding, which will then be reallocated according to the recommendation and approval of the MPO Technical and Policy Committees. If the Awardee declines the awarded STBG, CRP, or TAP funds, other fiscal year attributable funded project awards will be forfeited.

If Awardee fails to perform to the Client's satisfaction any material requirement of this contract, is in violation of a material provision of this contract, or the Client determines that the Awardee lacks the financial resources to perform the contract, the Client shall provide written notice to the Awardee to cure the problem identified within the period of time specified in the Client's written notice. If not cured by that date the Client may either: (a) immediately terminate the contract without additional written notice or (b) enforce the terms and conditions of the contract.

For termination due to any of the causes contained in this Section, the Client retains its rights to seek any available legal or equitable remedies and damages.

4.3 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE: The Client may, for its convenience and with thirty (30) days prior written notice to Awardee, terminate this contract in whole or in part and without payment of any penalty or incurring any further obligation to the Awardee.

Upon submission of invoices and proof of claim, the Awardee shall be entitled to compensation for supplies and services provided in compliance with this contract up to and including the date of termination.

4.4 AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATION: This contract is contingent upon and subject to the availability of funds. The State, at its sole option, may terminate or suspend this contract, in whole or in part, without penalty or further payment being required, if (1) the Illinois General Assembly or the federal funding source fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such obligation, or if funds needed are insufficient for any reason (30 ILCS 500/20-60), (2) the Governor decreases the Client's funding by reserving some or all of the Client's appropriation(s) pursuant to power delegated to the Governor by the Illinois General Assembly, or (3) the Client determines, in its sole discretion or as directed by the Office of the Governor, that a reduction is necessary or advisable based upon actual or projected budgetary considerations. Awardee will be notified in writing of the failure of appropriation or of a reduction or decrease.

4.5 PERFORMANCE RECORD; SUSPENSION: Upon request of the Client, the Awardee shall meet to discuss performance or provide contract performance updates to help ensure proper performance of this contract. The Awardee shall include Client's representatives in all communication and meetings with IDOT, engineering teams, and consultant firms related to the attributable funded projects. The Client may consider Awardee's performance under this contract and compliance with law and rule to determine whether to continue this contract, suspend Awardee from doing future business with the Client for a specified period of time, or whether Awardee can be considered responsible on specific future contract opportunities.

4.6 REPORTING, STATUS, AND MONITORING SPECIFICATIONS: Awardee shall immediately notify the State of any event that may have a material impact on Awardee's ability to perform this contract.

The Client has the right to publicly promote any attributable funded project and award of funds. The Awardee is required to share and obtain approval from the Client any public relations or media releases prior to publishing.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Unless otherwise required by law, Awardee will exercise reasonable effort to maintain in confidence information disclosed or submitted by Client as confidential information. Confidential information does not include information that:

a) is generally available in the public domain or becomes available to the public through an act of the Client;
b) is independently known prior to receipt; or
c) is made available to the public as a matter of lawful right by a third party.

Awardee shall not publish, distribute, advertise, or otherwise disclose the relationship and the general services created and performed under this Agreement without express written permission of the Client. Unless otherwise required by law, all reports, documents, and other deliverables created pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be treated by the Awardee as confidential and will not be made available to any unintended third party without the prior written approval of the Client. No reports or other documents produced in whole or in part pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be the subject of an application for copyright by the Awardee.

6. ASSIGNMENT: This contract may not be assigned or transferred in whole or in part by Awardee without the prior written consent of the Client.

7. AUDIT/RETENTION OF RECORDS: Awardee and its subcontractors shall maintain books and records relating to the performance of this contract and any subcontract necessary to support amounts charged to the State pursuant this contract or subcontract. Books and records, including information stored in databases or other computer systems, shall be maintained by the Awardee for a period of three (3) years from the later of the date of final payment under the contract or completion of the contract, and by the subcontractor for a period of three (3) years from the later of final payment under the term or completion of the subcontract. If Federal funds are used to pay contract costs, the Awardee and its subcontractors must retain their respective records for five (5) years. Books and records required to be maintained under this section shall be available for review or audit by representatives of the Awardee, the Auditor General, the Executive Inspector General, the Chief Procurement Officer, State of

Illinois internal auditors or other governmental entities with monitoring authority, upon reasonable notice and during normal business hours. Awardee and its subcontractors shall cooperate fully with any such audit and with any investigation conducted by any of these entities. Failure to maintain books and records required by this section shall establish a presumption in favor of the State for the recovery of any funds paid by the State under this contract or any subcontract for which adequate books and records are not available to support the purported disbursement. The Awardee or subcontractors shall not impose a charge for audit or examination of the Awardee or subcontractor's books and records. 30 ILCS 500/20-65

8. **INDEMNIFICATION:** Awardee agrees to indemnify and hold the Client and its employees harmless from any loss, claim, damage, or liability arising out of or in connection with the action or inaction of the Client under this Agreement, including but not limited to provision of data and information used for grant reporting purposes. Awardee shall indemnify and hold its employees harmless from any loss, claim, damage, or liability arising out of or in connection with Awardee's use of deliverables provided under this Agreement. If the Awardee fails to provide information that is needed for the completion of the project, or such information is incorrect, the Client is not liable unless it was aware of the inaccuracy or was unaware of the inaccuracy as a result of gross negligence. The Awardee shall indemnify and hold the Client and its employees harmless from any loss, claim, damage, or liability arising out of or in connection with this failure to provide information if it results in an inability to submit the project by the submission deadline.

   In the event that the Awardee elects to cancel the Agreement for any reason other than a material breach, the Client is hereby indemnified from any losses, potential or actual, incurred by the Awardee as a result of the work performed under this Agreement.

9. **REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES:** Awardee represents and warrants that it will perform the services with reasonable care and skill; and the services and related materials provided under this Agreement will not infringe or violate any intellectual property rights or other right of any third party.

10. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:** Either party's liability in contract, tort, or otherwise (including negligence) arising directly out of or in connection with this Agreement or the performance or observance of its obligations under this Agreement and every applicable part of it shall be limited in aggregate to the applicable insurance limits.

    Awardee assumes liability and responsibility for tax reporting and liabilities, and insurance to cover any negligent acts committed by Awardee or Awardee's employees or agents during the performance of any duties under this Agreement. The Client further agrees to hold the Awardee free and harmless from any and all claims arising from any such negligent act or omission.

11. **SEVERABILITY:** The invalidity or illegality of one or more provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions.

12. **APPLICABLE LAW:** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois.

13. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS:** This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding between the parties concerning the subject matter hereof. No amendments or changes to this Agreement shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each party.

14. **COUNTERPARTS:** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts (including digital signatures), each of which shall be deemed to be an original and both of which shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement by proper persons duly authorized.

Authorized Signors & Designated Contacts
To ensure prompt and accurate delivery of applicable communications, please provide the contact information for each of the relevant topics below.

Party	Region 1 Planning Council	Party	**Awardee:**
Signature		Signature	
Date Signed		Date Signed	
Signor Name	Michael Dunn Jr.	Signor Name	
Signor Title	Executive Director	Signor Title	
Agreement	Michael Dunn Jr. mdunn@r1planning.org (815)319-4180	Agreement	
Services		Services	
Billing		Billing	
Mail	127 N Wyman St, Ste 100 Rockford, IL 61101	Mail	