



Thomas P. McNamara, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Todd Cagnoni, City Administrator

RE: Proposed funding agreement with Zion West Enterprise for Youth Training and Mowing Program to better prepare individuals for future opportunities.

DATE: June 8, 2026

For your consideration, is a proposed funding agreement with Zion West for Youth Training and Mowing Program to better prepare individuals for future opportunities utilizing Cannabis funds in the amount of \$25,000.

Zion West Enterprises respectfully requests \$25,000 from the City of Rockford's to support the launch of the 2026 Neighborhood Mowing Program, a comprehensive 10-week summer employment, violence prevention, and neighborhood beautification initiative designed to serve 10 at-risk youth from Rockford's west side.

The program will provide participants with paid employment, mentorship, financial literacy education, entrepreneurship training, and practical workforce experience while improving the appearance and cleanliness of neighborhoods throughout the 13th Ward and surrounding west side communities.

Participants will work Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., totaling 18 hours per week for 10 weeks. Youth will earn \$15 per hour, while three adult mentors will supervise the program and provide workforce coaching and life-skills development.

The program aligns directly with the City of Rockford's Cannabis Funds framework by reinvesting resources into communities disproportionately impacted by disinvestment and creating opportunities for youth development, violence prevention, entrepreneurship, environmental stewardship, and community wellness.

Please let me know should you have any questions.