



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.