



City of Racine, Wisconsin Agenda Briefing Memorandum

AGENDA DATE:

September 2, 2025 – Common Council - Committee Assignment

Week of September 8, 2025 – Committee consideration

September 16, 2025 – Common Council consideration

PREPARED BY: Kelly Reed, Manager, Neighborhood Enhancement Division

REVIEWED BY: Jeff Hintz, CNU-A, Assistant Director of City Development

SUBJECT: Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason on behalf of the Director of City Development, requesting permission to apply for a 2025 Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance Scholarship.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS: This scholarship provides expert guidance and support for local government initiatives related to community revitalization and vacant property issues. The Center for Community Progress is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities address the full cycle of property revitalization. They work with state and local governments, as well as community leaders, to reform vacant properties, policies, and practices. Their work focuses on critical areas such as land banks, strategic code enforcement, and delinquent property tax enforcement.

Securing this scholarship would provide the City of Racine with expert consultation at no direct cost, to offer assistance with:

Strategic Code Enforcement: Developing new, proactive strategies to address blighted and vacant properties, improving neighborhood conditions.

Land Banking: Gaining expert insight into establishing a land bank to manage and repurpose vacant and tax-delinquent properties.

Policy Reform: Identifying and addressing legal or procedural barriers that hinder effective property revitalization and developing a strategic approach for policy reform.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City of Racine Common Council authorizes the Director of City Development or designee to apply for a 2025 Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance Scholarship and further authorizes the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney, or their designees to execute any documents to accept the scholarship assistance if awarded.

FISCAL NOTE & BUDGETARY IMPACT: N/A - this scholarship provides up to 200 hours of technical assistance from the Center for Community Progress to aid city staff as outlined in this memo, at no cost.