

Department of Public Works

City Hall
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403
262.636.9121 – Public Works
262.636.9191 - Engineering



John C. Rooney, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

Ronald J. Pritzlaff, P.E.
Asst. Comm. of Public Works

August 27, 2025

Legistar Item: 0869-25

Ald. David Maack, Chair
Public Works & Services Committee
Racine, WI

Re: Agreement with Hyfi for flood monitoring and data services

Dear Alder Maack:

The City of Racine is desirous of entering into a no cost agreement with Hyfi for flood monitoring and data services. Hyfi is a group from the University of Michigan that provide monitoring and data collection using wireless devices, cloud storage and AI technology to assist with the capturing and notification of water levels for flood mitigation and lake/river level control. The program is paid for through a grant by the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

Hyfi will install up to five (5) wireless water-level monitoring sensors within the City. These sensors will provide real-time flood and drainage data to support emergency response, infrastructure planning, and environmental monitoring. Sensors will transmit data to a web-based dashboard accessible to authorized City personnel and project partners.

The five (5) sensor installation locations have been identified. At the Mt. Pleasant Street Dry Detention Basin, sensors will be installed upstream of the outfall berm and near the headwall on Mt. Pleasant Street. At the Young Industrial Basin, a sensor will be installed near the outfall to detect if the system fails to drain within 72 hours following a storm event, which would indicate potential clogging or failure of the outlet. A third sensor will be co-located with the USGS Flood Gauge on the Root River to monitor river stage in real time, eliminating the need for manual checks during storms. At Mallard Shores, a sensor near the basin outfall will continuously monitor the water stage.

Hyfi will provide the above services to the City for a 1-year period beginning on the Effective Date.

Hyfi will provide all equipment, installation, maintenance, and data services at no cost to the City. Project funding is provided through the Great Lakes Protection Fund under the initiative titled "Empowering Water Operators with Digital Tools."

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If the committee agrees, the appropriate action would be to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into the agreement.

Sincerely,

John C. Rooney, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

Cc: Mayor Cory Mason
Jim Sullivan
Kathleen Fischer
Ron Pritzlaff
Ara Molitor