

AGENDA BRIEFING MEMO

To: Finance and Personnel Committee

From: Mayor Cory Mason

Re: Contract to Assist in Fundraising for Capital and Operations for the King Community Center

Date: May 26, 2026

The City of Racine continues efforts to secure funding for the King Community Center project. To date, approximately \$53 million has been secured toward the project's estimated total cost of \$68.5 million, leaving an approximate \$15 million funding gap. While the City has authorized bonding of \$17 million to ensure completion of the project, staff and project partners remain confident that additional foundation, philanthropic, corporate, and governmental funding opportunities exist to further reduce the impact on local property taxpayers.

To date, G Strategies LLC has assisted in securing and facilitating several significant funding awards for the project, including:

- \$100,000 from the CNH Foundation;
- \$250,000 from the WE Energies Foundation;
- \$400,000 in stormwater grant funding;
- \$400,000 from the Otto Bremer Trust; and
- Assistance with the recently awarded \$2 million State of Wisconsin facilities grant.

In addition, G Strategies previously assisted with efforts related to an \$8 million Congressionally Directed Spending request sponsored by Tammy Baldwin. While the request was ultimately removed from the federal budget following changes at the federal level in 2025, the effort demonstrated the firm's ability to coordinate and pursue large-scale public funding opportunities.

As construction progresses and the project advances from conceptual renderings to a visible community investment, additional opportunities for philanthropic and institutional support are anticipated. Continued fundraising efforts may help further offset project costs and operational impacts.

G Strategies LLC has substantial experience supporting capital fundraising and community development initiatives throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest. The firm is currently assisting with fundraising efforts for the Veterans Community Project in Milwaukee, where approximately \$8 million of the project's \$11 million fundraising goal has been secured to date.

In addition, G Strategies was involved in the \$18 million Sherman Phoenix redevelopment project in Milwaukee, a transformational community investment that helped establish and support 20 Black-

owned businesses within the Sherman Park neighborhood following a period of significant community unrest and economic disinvestment.

Since its founding in 2008, G Strategies reports facilitating nearly \$1 billion in public, private, philanthropic, and grant funding support for its clients through strategic fundraising, government relations, and project development efforts.

Recommendation:

To authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to enter into a contract in the amount of \$150,000 through March 31, 2027 with G Strategies, LLC to assist in fundraising for Capital and Operations for the King Community Center.

Funding Available in Object Org #45010 52100 22912