

City of Fort Worth, Texas

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/19/24M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0185

LOG NAME: 02PIONEERS2024 PARTNERSHIP FUNDS

SUBJECT

(CD 9) Authorize Community Partnerships Funds Contribution to Pioneers Rest Cemetery Association, a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, in the Amount of \$50,000.00 as a One-Time Capital Contribution to Support the Restoration of the Main Entrance to Pioneers Rest Cemetery, Find that the Contribution Serves a Public Purpose and that Adequate Controls are in Place, Adopt Appropriation Ordinance, and Amend the Fiscal Years 2024–2028 Capital Improvement Program

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize a contribution to the Pioneers Rest Cemetery Association, a Texas non-profit corporation, in the amount of \$50,000.00 as a one-time capital contribution to support the restoration of the main entrance to Pioneers Rest Cemetery;
2. Find that the contribution serves a public purpose of preserving an historic site critical to the education of current and future generations in the Fort Worth community and that adequate controls are in place in the form of a funding agreement that ensures the public purpose is carried out;
3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance adjusting estimated receipts and appropriations in the General Capital Projects Fund by increasing receipts and appropriations in the 2024 Pioneers Cemetery project (City Project No. 105409) in the amount of \$50,000.00 and decreasing receipts and appropriations in the Future Community Partnerships programmable project (City Project No. P00047) by the same amount to fund a one-time capital contribution to support the restoration of the main entrance; and
4. Amend the Fiscal Years 2024–2028 Capital Improvement Program.

DISCUSSION:

Cemeteries are among a city’s most valuable historic resources, often documenting settlement patterns and revealing information about historic events, religions, lifestyles and genealogy. In the City of Fort Worth, there are 34 historic cemeteries within the city limits, all of which are privately owned.

Pioneers Rest Cemetery, established in 1850, is the oldest historic burial ground in Fort Worth and the only remaining resource from the original fort commanded by Major Ripley Arnold. Additionally, the cemetery is the final resting place of Fort Worth’s earliest pioneers, including General Tarrant for whom the county is named.

Pioneers Rest Cemetery Association, a Texas non-profit corporation, (the "Association") intends to restore the deteriorating main entrance of the Cemetery to its original condition to further preserve the Cemetery as an important historic site for the education of current and future generations.

The total estimated cost of the Project is \$100,799.00, and the Association has already received \$50,799.00 in grant funding and donations to partially fund the Project. The Association has created a proforma that shows sustainability with no additional City funding needed.

Therefore, the purpose of this M&C is to request that the City Council authorize the contribution to the Association in the amount of \$50,000.00 as a one-time capital contribution to support the restoration of the main entrance of Pioneers Rest Cemetery for future generations of residents and visitors to Fort Worth.

The City's contribution of \$50,000.00 comes after verifying the Association has successfully:

1. shown that the remaining \$50,799.00 of capital contributions needed to fund the cemetery restoration has already been committed by other organizations, thus putting the cemetery "across the fundraising finish line", and
2. shown a proforma that indicates full sustainability without the need for additional funding.

The funding for this contribution is available in the Future Community Partnerships Programmable project within the General Capital Projects Fund to fulfill the City's commitment to assist in the restoration of the main entrance of Pioneers Rest Cemetery. The Future Community Partnerships project is a holding place for monies the City has committed to be available for use in conjunction with community partners for capital improvements. The year to date funding in the programmable project is:

	FY2024 Beginning Balance	Authority	Budget Adjustment	FY2024 Remaining Balance
Future	\$1,704,620	M&C 24-0078	(250,000)	\$1,454,620

Community Partnerships  P00047				
		02ONESAFEPLACE2024 PARTNERSHIP FUNDS	(250,000)	\$1,204,620
		This M&C	(50,000)	
Remaining Funds				\$1,154,620

The action in this M&C will amend the Fiscal Years 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program as approved in connection with Ordinance 26453-09-2023, Section 7 capital Improvements.

The restoration of the cemetery will further the public purpose of preserving historic sites in the City which are critical to the education of current and future generations in the community. The contribution will be further conditioned on the execution of a funding agreement to ensure the public purpose is carried out.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

**FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are currently available in the Future Community Partnerships project within the General Capital Projects Fund and upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the General Capital Projects Fund for the 2024 Pioneers Rest Cemetery project. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the City Manager's Department has the responsibility of verifying the availability of funds.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:**    Carlo Capua    6363

**Originating Business Unit Head:**                      Carlo Capua    6363

**Additional Information Contact:**