

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/09/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0418

LOG NAME: 80EXPANDING LITERACY ACCESS

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for and Acceptance of the 2026 Summer Camp Literacy Programming Grant and the Execution of the Related Grant Agreement with the Rainwater Charitable Foundation in the Amount of \$338,050.00 to Fund Park and Recreation Literacy Initiative Programming and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify the application for and acceptance of the 2026 Summer Camp Literacy Programming Grant and the execution of the related grant agreement with the Rainwater Charitable Foundation; and
 2. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Other Fund in the amount of \$338,050.00 from the Rainwater Charitable Foundation for the purpose of funding Park and Recreation Literacy Initiative Programming
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to ratify the application for and acceptance of the 2026 Summer Camp Literacy Programming Grant and the execution of the related grant agreement with the Rainwater Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$338,050.00 to fund Park and Recreation Literacy Initiative Programming, specifically to fund staff costs and purchases of electronic devices, participant incentives, and supplies for literacy activity kits across 21 community centers and 4 mobile recreation sites. This grant will assist greatly in expanding literacy services provided to camp participants throughout the summer. This grant does not require matching funds.

The Rainwater Charitable Foundation is a private family charity, established in 1991 by Richard E. Rainwater in Fort Worth, TX. Its mission is to invest in sustainable, scalable solutions that improve lives—guided by principles of innovation, accountability, and collaboration. The Rainwater Charitable Foundation strengthens communities by expanding access to high-quality education and supporting programs that help children and families thrive. Their efforts focus on boosting student success, improving school quality, and increasing opportunities for long-term family stability.

This grant will enable the Park & Recreation Department (PARD) to make strategic staffing adjustments and add new positions to better support efforts to reduce “summer slide” in reading skills among participants in our literacy program. By enhancing the quality of literacy support across all 25 sites—21 community centers and 4 mobile recreation sites—PARD aims to strengthen its commitment to literacy, expand program impact, and increase the number of children served. Data consistently shows that the literacy program is highly effective in helping students maintain or improve their reading abilities over the summer months.

Funding will support increased staffing of Literacy Support Specialist (LSS) at sites that have higher camp enrollment; adding additional staff, increasing the number of hours LSS work and allow for the creation of two (2) Literacy Support Specialist II positions that will be used to enhance coordination between PARD and Library Department, Literacy Roundup (Dyslexia screening), support parent outreach, education and engagement.

The grant repository number is GRNT-APPL-0000000201.

The two (2) Literacy Support Specialist II positions and 25 LSS positions will charge salaries to this grant project as incurred; indirect cost recovery does not apply.

This will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

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 upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Other Fund. The Park and Recreation Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Park and Recreation Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

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