



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	CONSENT
MEETING DATE	JUNE 8, 2026

ITEM:	Approval of Resolution 2026-039 to Accept MN Office of Justice Program Hiring Grant.		
Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich City Manager			
DEPARTMENT: Police		BY/DATE: Deputy Chief Beth Posel / June 3, 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: (please indicate areas that apply by adding an “X” in front of the selected text below)			
x_Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		x_Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_High Quality Public Spaces		_Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
x_Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		x_Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The State of Minnesota, through the Office of Justice Programs, has initiated police hiring grants to assist in recruiting, hiring, and educating future police officer candidates because of current recruitment challenges in law enforcement. The Police Department applied for the 2026 Pathways to Policing Grant and has been awarded a grant for Summer 2026.

The grant is designed to identify a police officer candidate working towards a 2-year degree that wants to become a police officer and would work as a part-time Community Service Officer for the Columbia Heights Police Department while attending school. The grant will cover the cost of wages and tuition for a candidate to obtain the necessary requirements for police officer licensing. This grant requires a one-to-one match of local funds and that it is in operation within 90 days of the award notice.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

The City has applied for and been awarded the grant. Once accepted the Police Department will begin recruiting for the grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend accepting the grant as this has been a successful program for the Police Department. A previous Pathways Grant was accepted by Resolution 2024-28.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-039, there being ample copies available to the public.
MOTION: Move to adopt Resolution 2026-039 accepting the Minnesota Office of Justice Program grant for police hiring in the total amount of \$50,000 and authorize and direct the execution of the grant agreements.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Resolution 2026-039

Pathways to Policing Information