



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

**AGENDA DATE:** 4-27-2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize the Fire Chief to file an attestation with PERA to correct a retirement payout.

**PREPARED BY:** Travis Cole, Fire Chief

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### BACKGROUND:

In 2025, the Grand Rapids Fire Department Relief Association assets transferred to the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter (SVF) Plan administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). As part of this transition, several retirees with existing accounts were rolled over into the SVF plan. Retiree Bryan Zuehlke's account was transferred to SVF on 11-1-2024.

Earlier this year, Mr. Zuehlke – who recently turned 50 and became eligible to withdraw his pension – filed paperwork to get paid out. PERA processed the request and issued payment. The Fire Chief – in consultation with PERA staff – has determined an error was made with the payout as the calculation was based on an outdated version of the Grand Rapids Relief Association bylaws. Mr. Zuehlke's payout did not include \$33,712.20 in account gains from 2025 when the applicable rate of return was 14.99%.

PERA has directed the Fire Chief to complete an attestation form and obtain City Council approval to correct this error and ensure Mr. Zuehlke receives the full amount owed. The funds required for this administrative correction are from the Grand Rapids Fire Relief Association account and not part of the City budget.

### REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to file an attestation with PERA to correct a retirement payout to Bryan Zuehlke in the amount of \$33,712.20 and authorize the Fire Chief and governing body to sign the attestation form.