



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: October 26, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Consider Grand Rapids Area Library 2027 Hours and Library Public Services Clerk I Position.

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources Officer

BACKGROUND:

In 2026, the City made the difficult decision to reduce operating hours at the Grand Rapids Area Library, due to funding constraints. The reduction was met with considerable concern from the community, prompting fundraising and donation efforts to restore and expand library services.

Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign and the generosity of community members, additional funding is anticipated to support expanded library hours in 2027. Library Director Amy Dettmer will present the following proposed operating hours to the Library Board for consideration at its November 18, 2026, meeting:

- **January 4 – May 28**
Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- **June 1 – September 3**
Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- **September 7 – December 31**
Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

To adequately staff the proposed operating hours and continue providing public services to library patrons, staff is requesting authorization to post, advertise, and hire a part-time Library Public Services Clerk I position for 28 hours per week, beginning in 2027. The position and expanded hours are contingent upon Library Board approval of the proposed 2027 operating hours and confirmation of sufficient funding to support the position.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Approve the request to post, advertise, and hire for a part-time Library Public Services Clerk I position for 28 hours per week, beginning in 2027, contingent upon Library Board approval of the proposed 2027 operating hours at its November 18, 2026, meeting and confirmation of sufficient funding to support the position.