



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: August 11, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consider resignation from Lasha Karels, Assistant IT Director.

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources Officer

BACKGROUND:

On July 30th, Lasha Karels submitted her resignation from the position of Assistant IT Director for the City of Grand Rapids. She will continue to work remotely until the City Council appoints her successor. Following the appointment, Lasha has committed to remain working for the City for one additional calendar month to support a smooth transition and provide ongoing assistance, as needed. She is also open to extending her time if requested and approved by City Council.

Lasha began her career with the City in 2011 as a Network Technician in the IT Department. Early on, her performance was noted as having “far exceeded expectations,” setting the tone for the years to follow. Throughout her tenure, she played a key role in numerous IT initiatives and consistently brought a high level of expertise in hardware, software, and overall technology solutions. In 2021, Lasha was promoted to Assistant IT Director and has worked closely with IT Director Erik Scott for the past 14 years. Her contributions have been invaluable to the City, and we are sincerely grateful for her years of dedicated service. As a trusted and highly valued employee, Lasha has made a lasting impact in the City, she will be deeply missed. We wish her all the best on both her relocation and next career steps.

As a result of Lasha’s resignation, we have an open Assistant IT Director position. We respectfully request authorization for Human Resources to begin the process of posting, advertising, interviewing, and hiring for this full-time position. This role is classified as a Grade 13, with a 2025 salary range of \$74,776.00 to \$101,337.60.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to accept the resignation from Lasha Karels, from the position of Assistant IT Director, with an end date as specified above, and authorize Human Resources, to post, advertise, interview, and hire for an Assistant IT Director using the grade and salary range as listed above.