

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-194	Meeting:	June 8, 2026
	Agenda Item:	42	Roll Call:	26-0689
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Harvard College, acting through the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, regarding engagement in the Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellows program

SYNOPSIS:

Since 2024, the City has been involved with the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative with the mission to address unsheltered homelessness. The Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellows program extends the City's participation and engagement with Harvard in that policy area by granting a fellow for two years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Up to \$300,000 grant revenue

Funding Source: Grant from Harvard College

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- One of the major functions of the fellow's role is to lead the collaboration and manage the development of non-congregate shelter units. This would include researching and understanding best practices, assisting in policy development, potentially working through a fundraising plan, and, if possible and/or needed, soliciting construction plans.
- In the region's Blueprint to Address Homelessness in Polk County (2025-2029), the City is the strategy lead for strategy 2.B: Expand emergency shelter capacity for single adults by 50 units.
- Per the Blueprint, implementation milestones include:
 - Resources secured.
 - Emergency shelter design and service standards developed in partnership with homelessness assistance providers. Program design and service standards approved by CoC Board.
 - Specialized targeting and engagement protocols developed for families based on highest risk for harm or victimization without the benefit of receiving crisis housing.

- The fellow would begin on or around July 27, 2026.
- The fellow will be supervised by the City Manager's Office, but most of their day-to-day work will be within the Neighborhood Services Department.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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