



# Follow -up Discussion on Improving Public Health and Safety

Committee of the Whole  
7/25/2023

# Today's Objectives

- Background of Public Safety Committee work
- Provide overview of proposed ordinance changes
- Describe Implementation Steps
- Describe Communications Plan

# Background -- City Service Enhancement & Additional Supportive Service Investments

- City Additional Rapid Rehousing investments of \$500,000 above adopted FY24 budget
- Commitment to align street outreach efforts around housing first approach, transparency and accountability
- Focused effort on housing readiness, “fusion center” @ Crossroads Bible Church
- Pro-active cleaning program in specific corridors, parks and parking ramps
- Coordinated complaint referrals
- Additional investment in private security
- More enforcement of city codes and ordinances related to aggressive behavior and public health issues
- Improved protocols around identifying and storing personal property

# Modifications to Proposed Ordinances

- Nuisance Code re: Personal Property
  - Make clear that there will be no fees charged for property redeemed within required timeframe
- Disorderly Conduct Code:
  - Modified Definition of Loitering (new language shown):
    - (a) Loitering means lingering or hanging around without any apparent purpose in a place described in subsection (2)(c) & (2)(d) of this Section.
    - Limited Application (unchanged from public hearing):
      - (c) Loiter in any public building or in any other building or premises owned by another person after having been requested to leave by the lawful owner or occupant or a representative of the owner or occupant.
      - (d) Loiter or obstruct a doorway in such a manner that interferes with the functioning of the door, or an individual's ability to pass through the doorway.

# Implementation Plan

- Disorderly conduct code revisions – GRPD training
- Nuisance provision changes regarding personal property and excess personal property:
  - Internal implementation team representing Police, HOT, Public Works, Parks, Mobile GR, City Attorney and Executive offices.
  - Update existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to reflect:
    - Allowed amount of property
    - Pre- and post- notification requirements
    - Requirements for redemption, including acceptable confirmation identity
    - Include flexibility for unique circumstances, such as inability to redeem property due to medical emergency, incarceration
  - Develop required notices and signage; identify locations for posting
  - Communicate with partners and key stakeholders
  - Inform public at large

# Communication Plan

- Enhancements to current print materials that have been used to educate public
- Engagement with potentially impacted individuals through homeless service providers, parks users and special event organizers
- Inform organized stakeholder groups and sectors:
  - Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.
  - Chamber and other business groups, including corridor improvement authorities
  - Service providers/street outreach teams
  - Shelter and transitional housing operators
  - Mental health and medical service providers