



# Candidate Presentation - City Attorney

City of Grand Rapids, Michigan



# Purpose of Today's Meeting & Takeaways

- Introduction
- Overview of Search Progress & Timeline
- Candidate Pool
- Recommended Candidates
- Next Steps

# City Attorney Search – Key Phases





**Candidate Profile Development**

**December 2025**

**Outreach and Recruiting**

**Jan-Feb 2026**

**Selection**

**March-April 2026**



## Candidate Pool

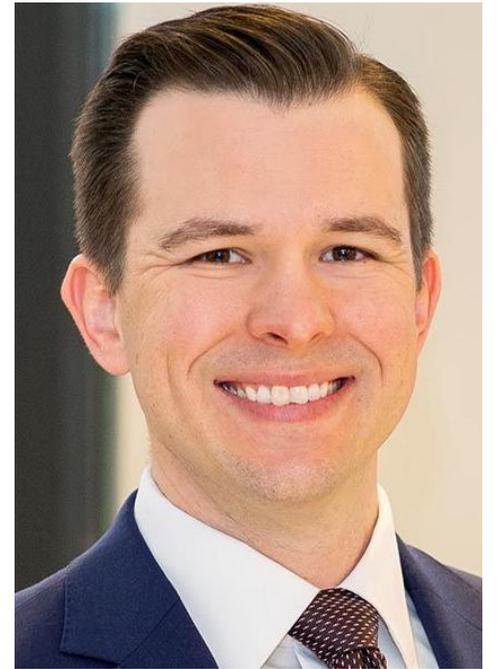
- Nine candidates, one withdrew.
- Three candidates recommended to advance
  - Most aligned with the candidate profile
  - All attorneys in Michigan with significant municipal experience
  - Two internal candidates, one external candidate



# Recommended Candidates

## Matthew Cross

- Partner at Cummings, McClorey, Davis & Acho
- 13 years of experience, 7-8 years local government exp.
- Broad experience representing Michigan cities and counties
- Both litigation and general representation experience
- Supervisory experience of attorneys and legal staff





# Recommended Candidates

## **Sarah Hartman**

- Director of Legal Affairs – Litigation Division
- 19 years experience, with 8 years local government exp.
- Broad experience with City and firms serving public agencies
- Primarily litigation experience
- Supervisory experience of attorneys and legal staff





# Recommended Candidates

## Philip Strom

- Interim City Attorney, City of Grand Rapids
- 17 years of experience, 15 years local government
- Broad city and county experience in Michigan
- General representation, plus prosecution, brief County Admin
- 8 years of supervisory and management experience





# Next Steps

**March 30-31:** Two-day interview/selection process

- **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> /Day:** Four interview panels
  - Executive Team
  - Law Community
  - Community Stakeholders
  - Law Department Staff
- **Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> /Evening:**
  - Public Forum
- **Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:**
  - Interviews with City Commission

**April 2026:** Appointment



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**Questions?**