



City Council Work Session

Crest Hill, IL

July 27, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

20600 City Center Boulevard, Crest Hill, IL 60403

Agenda

MAYOR

CLERK

TREASURER

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- [1.](#) 2026 Employee Handbook Updates – Part 1 – Legal Recommendations
- [2.](#) Executive Conference Room Use Policy Discussion
- [3.](#) Reactivate Meter/Hardship Program
- [4.](#) Draft Confidential Policy for Elected & Appointed Officials
- [5.](#) Naming the Plaza/Park – Draft Name: Crest Hill Commons

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- [1.](#) Direction on Zoning Ordinance Use Amendment – Data Centers

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- [1.](#) Update on Jasmine Ditch Cleanup Project.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT(Limit 3 minutes per person)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

The Agenda for each regular meeting and special meeting (except a meeting held in the event of a bona fide emergency, rescheduled regular meeting, or any reconvened meeting) shall be posted at the City Hall and at the location where the meeting is to be held at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the holding of the meeting. The City Council shall also post on its website the agenda for any regular or special meetings. The City Council may modify its agenda for any regular or special meetings. The City Council may modify its agenda before or at the meeting for which public notice is given, provided that, in no event may the City Council act upon any matters which are not posted on the agenda at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the time for the holding of the meeting.



Memo – Administration Report

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2026
Submitter:	Ashley Monroe, Assistant City Administrator/HR Director
Department:	Administration / Human Resources
Agenda Item:	2026 Employee Handbook Updates – Part 1 – Legal Recommendations

Summary: The following summarizes approximately half of the changes proposed for the Employee Handbook. Staff will present the second half of recommended policy changes at an upcoming meeting.

The attached document contains all the updated federal and state laws and regulations which the City needs to follow, along with recommendations for adjustments to existing language in the City's Employee Handbook.

This overview includes recommended language from City labor attorney Melissa Wolf, of Storino, Ramello, & Durkin, and previous labor attorney John Kelly, related to changes in State and Federal laws which have been enacted or amended since the most recent Handbook update in January 2025.

Minor cleanup, such as capitalization, renumbering, or punctuation corrections are not included in this summary but will be included/shown in the final redline version of the Handbook update.

Summary of Changes by Section – Legal Recommendations due to law or act passage/amendments

[Changes to Section 2 – Definitions:](#)

Revisions include minor grammatical changes but add some new definitions and remove duplicate content that is either covered elsewhere with a definition or is no longer needed.

[Section 3 – Recruitment and Employment:](#)

Legal recommends adding references to the Equal Pay Act, updating the Equal Employment Opportunity statement, clarifying that position appointments are made in accordance with City ordinance, and defining temporary employees. The Section also relocates the Dress Code policy and combines the former "Non-Uniformed Employees" section to a general Dress Code and Appearance policy.

[Section 4 – Hours of Work and Overtime:](#)

Proposed changes include clarification of how employees are paid for longevity, adds reference to Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act.

[Section 5 – Employee Conduct:](#)

Updates include additions to the Employee Code of Conduct and adds a procedure for external harassment reporting resource.

Section 7 – Insurance and Other Employee Benefits:

Change includes the addition of language related to the Illinois Transportation Benefits Program Act, 820 ILCS 63.

Section 8 – Holidays, Vacation & Leaves of Absence:

Changes include addition of provisions from a variety of State of Illinois Acts, including the Illinois Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act and Blood and Organ Donation Leave Act. Additionally, changes related to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act amendment to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Illinois Pregnancy Discrimination Law are reflected in the proposed changes. A substantial portion of the laws cited in the Handbook's existing language about Military Leave and Military Honors/Funeral Leave, have been repealed by PA 100-1101 – ISERRA and by PA 100-1101, and the proposed language reflects current law and procedures.

Section 9 – Safety & Equipment Use:

Change clarifies definitions related to City property and storage of legal, concealed firearms in a locked personal vehicle, based on the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

See the included charts below for the proposed text changes by Section and use bookmarks above to jump to the topic.

Section 2 - Definitions

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
Section 2 Definitions		<u>Unless otherwise defined within this Employee Handbook, the following terms shall have the following meanings:</u>	Adds a preface to section.
Section 2 Definitions	Appointment: The selection of a person to a full-time or part-time position on a regular or temporary basis in the City service who is not a present employee of the City.	Appointment: The selection of a person to a full-time or part-time position on a regular or temporary basis in the City service who is not a present employee of the City.	Removes duplicative language.
Section 2 Definitions		<u>City Code: The City of Crest Hill, Illinois Code of Ordinances, as amended from time to time.</u>	Adds definition/reference to City Code and ordinances.
Section 2 Definitions	Compensation Plan: A schedule of pay ranges in hourly, bi-weekly and annualized rates for each class within the City service.	<u>Compensation Plan: A schedule of pay ranges in hourly, bi-weekly and annualized rates for each class within the City service.</u>	This term may be deleted because it is never referenced again within the Handbook.
Section 2 Definitions	Demotion: The movement of an employee from a position in one class to a position in another class having a lower salary range because of disciplinary reasons, incapacity to perform work, inefficiency or unsatisfactory work performance, by request of the employee or a re-organization.	<u>Demotion: The movement of an employee from a position in one class to a position in another class having a lower salary range because of disciplinary reasons, incapacity to perform work, inefficiency or unsatisfactory work performance, by request of the employee or a re-organization.</u>	Defined specifically within the Handbook on page 33.
Section 2 Definitions	Department: The term “department”, means a major operating functional unit of the City government.	Department: The term “department”, means a major operating functional unit of the City government.	Removes duplicative language.
Section 2 Definitions	Department Head: The term “Department Head” means the officially appointed head of any department or an employee appointed as “acting” head of any department.	Department Headhead: The term “Department Head” means the officially appointed head of any department or an employee appointed as “acting” head of any department.	Removes duplicative language.
Section 2 Definitions	FLSA: The Fair Labor Standards Act is a Federal act that establishes minimum wages, overtime and other labor standards including position classification as ‘exempt’ or ‘nonexempt’.	FLSA: The Fair Labor Standards Act is a Federal act federal law that establishes fundamental employment protections, including minimum wages, overtime pay and other labor standards including position classification as ‘exempt’ or ‘nonexempt’ for both full-time and part-time workers.	Legal recommends clarification.

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
Section 2 Definitions	Non-Exempt Position: A classification that is entitled to overtime payment as established under the FLSA or State wage and hour laws. Non-exempt employees' pay is calculated on an hourly basis.	<u>Non-exempt position or employee:</u> A classification that is entitled to overtime payment as established under the FLSA or State wage and hour laws. Non-exempt employees' pay is calculated on an hourly basis.	Legal recommendation, removes capitalized definition.
Section 2 Definitions		<u>Personnel Officer: The Director of Human Resources or such other individual designated by the City Administrator.</u>	Adds definition of term found throughout Handbook.
Section 2 Definitions		<u>Protected Category: Those actual or perceived characteristics of a person for which a person may not be discriminated against under Federal, State, and Local law. These include, but are not limited to, a person's: race, color, religion, sex and gender, pregnancy status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, preferred language or language fluency, age (over 40 years old), physical or mental disability, military status, unfavorable discharge from military service, veteran status, genetic information, marital status, arrest record, order of protection status, persons who make legitimate complaints (e.g. retaliation, whistleblowing), association with a person with a disability or handicap, work authorization status, parental status, family responsibilities, reproductive health decisions, credit history, and criminal history, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.</u>	Adds Definition for Protected Category for continued reference and consistency through various provisions of the Handbook. Reference: Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 5/2-101, et seq.

[Index](#)

Section 3 – Recruitment and Employment

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.1 General Policy	Appointments to all positions shall be solely on the basis of the applicant's or employee's qualifications to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation. These selection procedures enable the City to review applicant qualifications and suitability in a systematic approach.	Appointments to all positions shall be solely on the basis of the applicant's or employee's qualifications to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation. These selection procedures enable the City to review applicant qualifications and suitability in a systematic approach. <u>The City will not discriminate in the hiring process based upon any Protected Category.</u> <u>Where employment opportunities are advertised to external applicants:</u> <u>• The job posting will include the position's pay range as well as a general description of benefits and other compensation.</u> <u>• The City will announce, post, or otherwise share opportunities for promotion with all current employees within 14 days of the external announcement.</u> <u>Any evidence that an applicant, whether an internal applicant or one from outside the City, falsified information, made fraudulent statements, or failed to provide all of the required information may be subject to discharge and/or disqualified from consideration for employment.</u>	Legal revision. Reference from Equal Pay Act, 820 ILCS 112/10(b-25)

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.2 Equal Employment Opportunity Statement 3.2 Equal Employment Opportunity Statement (cont.)	It is the policy of the City that employment in City government shall be based on merit and individual qualifications. No discrimination shall be exercised in any manner by a City official or employee against or in favor of any applicant for City employment or employee because of political or religious opinions or affiliations, race, color, sex, age, national origin, marital status, military or veteran status, order of protection status, genetic information, disability, sexual orientation, or other protected status or characteristic as established by law. An applicant or employee shall be considered solely on the basis of qualifications, abilities, skills and knowledge, with or without reasonable accommodation. Just and equitable incentives and conditions of employment are to be maintained to promote efficiency and economy in the operation of City government. The policy of Equal Employment Opportunity applies to all policies and procedures relating to recruitment and hiring, compensation, promotion, benefits, termination and all other terms and conditions of employment. The City complies with Federal and State equal employment opportunity laws and strives to keep the workplace free from all forms of illegal harassment. The Personnel Officer has overall responsibility for this policy and maintains reporting and monitoring procedures. Employees' questions	It is the policy of the City that employment in City government shall be based on merit and individual qualifications. No discrimination shall be exercised in any manner by a City official or employee against or in favor of any applicant for City employment or employee because of political or religious opinions or affiliations <u>or any other Protected Category, race, color, sex, age, national origin, marital status, military or veteran status, order of protection status, genetic information, disability, sexual orientation, or other protected status or characteristic as established by law.</u> An applicant or employee shall be considered solely on the basis of qualifications, abilities, skills and knowledge, with or without reasonable accommodation. Just and equitable incentives and conditions of employment are to be maintained to promote efficiency and economy in the operation of City government. <u>No employee shall be penalized or discriminated against for making truthful disclosures regarding any unlawful employment practices. The City shall take no action to prevent employee concerted activity to deal with work-related issues.</u> The policy of Equal Employment Opportunity applies to all policies and procedures relating to recruitment and hiring, compensation, promotion, benefits, termination and all other terms and conditions of employment. The City complies with Federal and State equal employment opportunity laws and strives to keep the workplace free from all forms of illegal harassment. <u>Should the City be notified by any federal agency of any discrepancy regarding an</u>	Legal recommendations.

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.2 Equal Employment Opportunity Statement (cont.)	or concerns regarding this policy or violation thereof, should be referred to the Personnel Officer. Complaints are investigated immediately and handled as confidentially as possible. The City ensures that employees following this complaint procedure are protected against retaliation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee violating this policy.	<u>employee's individual taxpayer identification number or any other identifying document, the City will take no action based on this notification and will notify the employee of the communication.</u> The Personnel Officer has overall responsibility for this policy and maintains reporting and monitoring procedures. Employees' questions or concerns regarding this policy or violation thereof, should be referred to the Personnel Officer. Complaints are investigated immediately and handled as confidentially as possible. The City ensures that employees following this complaint procedure are protected against retaliation. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee violating this policy.	
3.9 Appointments	The City Council shall approve all full-time employees as recommended by the hiring Department Head, with the exception of employees subject to the Civil Service Commission and Department Head appointments which are otherwise provided by Ordinance. Appointments of Department Heads shall be made by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council.	The City Council shall approve all full-time employees as recommended by the hiring Department Head, with the exception of employees subject to the Civil Service Commission and Department Head appointments which are otherwise provided by Ordinance. Appointments of Department Heads shall be made by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council. <u>Employees are appointed in accordance with the City Code.</u>	Simplifies language and avoids conflicting provisions of City Code; Section 1.4 (Application of Rules) specifies that City Code prevails over other policies, including the Handbook. City Ordinances describe the manner and method of appointments.
3.10 <u>3.11</u> Employee Categories	For payroll purposes, the City maintains the following employee categories:	For payroll purposes, the City maintains the following employee categories:	Section heading renumbered. Language clarifies temporary/seasonal employee definition.

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.10 <u>3.11</u> Employee Categories (cont.)	Regular Full-Time Employee: An employee that is routinely scheduled to work a forty (40) hour work week in a designated job or as designated by collective bargaining agreement. Regular Part-Time Employee: An employee that is routinely scheduled to work less than a forty (40) hour work week in a designated job. Temporary or Seasonal Employee: An employee whose employment is established for a period not to exceed 90 days or continued to a total of 180 days.	Regular Full-Time Employee: An employee that is routinely scheduled to work a forty (40) hour work week in a designated job or as designated by collective bargaining agreement. Regular Part-Time Employee: An employee that is routinely scheduled to work less than a forty (40) hour work week in a designated job. Temporary or Seasonal Employee: An employee <u>that is hired on a temporary basis for a specific period of time, such as summer months and peak periods. Temporary or seasonal employees may work on a part-time or full-time basis. While they receive all legally mandated benefits, they are not eligible for the City's benefit programs, unless specifically included in the benefit description. Temporary or Seasonal employees can be considered exempt or non-exempt under the FLSA. Collective bargaining agreements may include additional regulation and shall be referenced.</u>	
3.11 <u>3.12</u> Benefit Eligibility	3.11 Benefit Eligibility	3.12 Benefit Eligibility	Renumbered heading.
3.12 <u>3.13</u> Changes in Personal Information	Employees are required to provide current information to the City including, but not limited to, home address, home and cellular phone numbers, driver's license, emergency contact information, and for benefit purposes, dependents and beneficiaries. Upon hiring, the employee must complete an <i>Emergency Contact Form</i> with contact information and submit it to	Employees are required to provide current information to the City including, but not limited to, <u>residence address, residence telephone number, secondary employment, number and names of dependents, individuals to be contacted in the event of an emergency, changes in marital status, and changes in banking and direct deposit information.</u> Employees must inform the <u>City Personnel Officer</u> on	Language clarification.

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
	the Personnel Officer. Employees must inform the City on a timely basis of changes in personal information as stated herein.	a timely basis of changes in personal information as stated herein.	
3.15 Non-Uniformed Employees <u>Dress Code and Appearance</u>	All staff members must wear clothing suitable for a business environment and appear neat and well-groomed at all times. It is critical that employees present a professional image when serving the public. Unless required to wear a uniform, or addressed by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA), dress is business casual Monday through Thursday. Unripped denim and athletic shoes may be worn on designated Fridays. Employees are expected to exercise good judgment when dressing for work. If there is a question about whether something looks appropriate and complies with this policy or if you have need of an exception to this policy for religious or medical reasons, consult your supervisor, Department Director, or Human Resources. Employees are expected to be well groomed and dressed in a manner suitable for their responsibilities and positions. Employees whose clothing is deemed unacceptable may be sent home to change and will not be paid for the time not working to change clothing. Below is a list of acceptable and unacceptable business casual attire (not all-inclusive). Acceptable:	<u>The City expects that all employees, uniformed and non-uniformed, will present a professional image at all times when performing job tasks. Employees are to dress in a clean and professional manner that is safe, appropriate to their job responsibilities.</u> All staff members must wear clothing suitable for a business environment and appear neat and well-groomed at all times. It is critical that employees present a professional image when serving the public. Unless required to wear a uniform, or addressed by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA), dress is business casual Monday through Thursday. Unripped denim and athletic shoes may be worn on designated Fridays. Employees are expected to exercise good judgment when dressing for work. If there is a question about whether something looks appropriate and complies with this policy or if you have need of an exception to this policy for religious or medical reasons, consult your supervisor, Department Director, or Human Resources. Employees are expected to be well groomed and dressed in a manner suitable for their responsibilities and positions. Employees whose clothing is deemed unacceptable may be sent home to change and will not be paid for the time not working to change clothing. Below is a list of acceptable and unacceptable business casual attire (not all-inclusive).	Combines Section 3.13 into related content; adds a summary of 3.13 to beginning of 3.15; replaces detailed language about jewelry and tattoos with simpler language (#8).

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.15 Non- Uniformed Employees <u>Dress Code</u> <u>and</u> <u>Appearance</u> (cont.)	1. Approved City logo wear 2. Collared dress shirts, polos, knit shirts, blouses, sweaters, jackets, vests, collared shirts 3. Dress pants, chinos, capri pants, skirts, dresses 4. Non-athletic casual or dress shoes Unacceptable: 1. Athletic type shoes such as sneakers (except designated Fridays), Crocs, or Tevas, shoes that pose a potential safety risk, house slippers, open toed non-dress shoes 2. Jeans (except designated Fridays). 3. Shorts, pajamas, miniskirts or mini dresses. 4. Leggings or lycra/spandex clothing that is unprofessionally worn (i.e. not covered to mid-thigh or longer). 5. Shirts referencing alcohol, drugs, or potentially offensive graphics, political messaging, crop tops, spaghetti straps, off the shoulder, or tight/revealing clothing. 6. Clothing which is wrinkled, faded, torn or tattered, or otherwise presents an unkempt or unclean appearance.	<i>Acceptable:</i> 1. Approved City logo wear 2. Collared dress shirts, polos, knit shirts, blouses, sweaters, jackets, vests, collared shirts 3. Dress pants, chinos, capri pants, skirts, dresses 4. Non-athletic casual or dress shoes <i>Unacceptable:</i> 1. Athletic type shoes such as sneakers (except designated Fridays), Crocs, or Tevas, shoes that pose a potential safety risk, house slippers, open toed non-dress shoes 2. Jeans (except designated Fridays). 3. Shorts, pajamas, miniskirts or mini dresses. 4. Leggings or lycra/spandex clothing that is unprofessionally worn (i.e. not covered to mid-thigh or longer). 5. Shirts referencing alcohol, drugs, or potentially offensive graphics, political messaging, crop tops, spaghetti straps, off the shoulder, or tight/revealing clothing.	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.15 Non-Uniformed Employees <u>Dress Code and Appearance</u> (cont.)	7. Excessive or potentially offensive tattoos (acceptable if covered). 8. Body odor and poor personal hygiene. 9. Excessive perfume, cologne, and/or after shave lotion. 10. Hats (except for religious or medical purposes or provided by the city). Due to the scope of work for particular positions (Inspectors, etc.), certain exceptions to this policy may apply. Employees may also be required to wear City authorized uniforms and/or City issued safety clothing. Departments are responsible for communicating these guidelines to their employees. Uniform allowances are addressed by current CBAs and/or Departmental regulations. Employees shall not wear a City uniform into any business establishment where the primary purpose of the business is the selling or furnishing of alcoholic beverages, cannabis, or cannabis related products unless in the performance of duty and in accordance with published standards of conduct. All City logo wear remains the property of the City and must be returned to the City at the time of termination of employment. APPEARANCE:	6. Clothing which is wrinkled, faded, torn or tattered, or otherwise presents an unkempt or unclean appearance. 7. Excessive or potentially offensive tattoos (acceptable if covered). 8. <u>Jewelry or attire that poses a safety risk.</u> 9. <u>Body odor and poor personal hygiene.</u> 10. <u>Excessive perfume, cologne, and/or after shave lotion.</u> 11. <u>Hats (except for religious or medical purposes or provided by the city).</u> - Authorized uniforms provided by the City must be worn at all times during scheduled working hours unless otherwise indicated by the Department/Division directive. Uniform allowances are addressed by current CBAs and/or Departmental regulations. In no circumstance shall an employee be paid any compensation for uniform allowance unused at the end of the year or at the end of the employee's employment relationship with the City (regardless of the reason). - Employees shall not wear a City uniform into any business establishment where the primary purpose of the business is the selling or furnishing of alcoholic beverages, cannabis, or cannabis related products unless in the	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.15 Non-Uniformed Employees <u>Dress Code and Appearance</u> (cont.)	- Authorized uniforms provided by the City must be worn at all times during scheduled working hours unless otherwise indicated by the Department/Division directive. Uniform allowances are addressed by current CBAs and/or Departmental regulations. In no circumstance shall an employee be paid any compensation for uniform allowance unused at the end of the year or at the end of the employee's employment relationship with the City (regardless of the reason). - Employees shall not wear a City uniform into any business establishment where the primary purpose of the business is the selling or furnishing of alcoholic beverages, cannabis, or cannabis related products unless in the performance of duty and in accordance with published standards of conduct. - Like all other personnel policies in the Handbook, the City Administrator may periodically issue clarifications or determinations regarding interpretation of appearance standards to ensure all employees present a proper image to the citizens of the community for unique events or business reasons. - Modifications or revisions to the appearance policy will be recommended by the City Administrator for consideration by the City Council.	performance of duty and in accordance with published standards of conduct. - Like all other personnel policies in the Handbook, the City Administrator may periodically issue clarifications or determinations regarding interpretation of appearance standards to ensure all employees present a proper image to the citizens of the community for unique events or business reasons. - Modifications or revisions to the appearance policy will be recommended by the City Administrator for consideration by the City Council. - The City Administrator may designate office workdays in which staff will be assigned to perform tasks consisting of organizing or moving files, etc. where the typical clothing standards would be relaxed for the activity and may apply only to specific staff. - Employees are expected to project a professional appearance and ready to work that presents the professional nature of the service and interactions expected of the residents. - Department Heads are responsible for monitoring the appearance of their respective employees, including advising employees of proper clothing choices for the work environment. The determination as to what is	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.15 Non-Uniformed Employees Dress Code and Appearance (cont.)	- The City Administrator may designate office workdays in which staff will be assigned to perform tasks consisting of organizing or moving files, etc. where the typical clothing standards would be relaxed for the activity and may apply only to specific staff. - Employees are expected to project a professional appearance and ready to work that presents the professional nature of the service and interactions expected of the residents. Enforcement - Department Heads are responsible for monitoring the appearance of their respective employees, including advising employees of proper clothing choices for the work environment. The determination as to what is acceptable appearance shall be made by the City Administrator or designee and shall be final. If it is determined that an employee is not in compliance with City standards for appropriate workplace appearance or violating any safety guidelines, the employee may be sent home (without pay unless an employee is permitted to use accrued benefit time) to change. Additional disciplinary action may be taken for repeated violation of the dress code standards. Jewelry and Tattoos The City permits employees to wear appropriate jewelry and to display tattoos at the workplace.	acceptable appearance shall be made by the City Administrator or designee and shall be final. If it is determined that an employee is not in compliance with City standards for appropriate workplace appearance or violating any safety guidelines, the employee may be sent home (without pay unless an employee is permitted to use accrued benefit time) to change. Additional disciplinary action may be taken for repeated violation of the dress code standards. Jewelry and Tattoos The City permits employees to wear appropriate jewelry and to display tattoos at the workplace. Department Heads and the Personnel Officer will determine if jewelry or tattoos may pose a conflict with the employee's job or work environment subject to the following conditions: a) Personal safety of self or others, or damage to company property. b) Productivity or performance expectations. c) Offensiveness to co-workers, customers, vendors or others in the workplace based on racial, sexual, religious, ethnic, or other characteristics or attributes of a sensitive or legally protected nature. d) Corporate or societal norms. e) Customer complaints.	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
3.15 Non-Uniformed Employees <u>Dress Code and Appearance</u> (cont.)	Department Heads and the Personnel Officer will determine if jewelry or tattoos may pose a conflict with the employee’s job or work environment subject to the following conditions: a) Personal safety of self or others, or damage to company property. b) Productivity or performance expectations. c) Offensiveness to co-workers, customers, vendors or others in the workplace based on racial, sexual, religious, ethnic, or other characteristics or attributes of a sensitive or legally protected nature. d) Corporate or societal norms. e) Customer complaints. If it is determined an employee’s jewelry or tattoos may present such a conflict, the employee will be required to identify appropriate options such as removal of excess or offensive jewelry, covering of tattoos or other reasonable means to resolve the conflict. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.	If it is determined an employee’s jewelry or tattoos may present such a conflict, the employee will be required to identify appropriate options such as removal of excess or offensive jewelry, covering of tattoos or other reasonable means to resolve the conflict. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.	

[Index](#)

Section 4 – Hours of Work and Overtime

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
<u>4.4 Longevity Incentive</u>	As an incentive for continuous service, the City of Crest Hill shall award longevity payment to employees with at least six (6) continuous years of service. Longevity payment shall be included in each paycheck for employees who have completed the required number of years. ***	As an incentive for continuous service, the City of Crest Hill shall award longevity payment to employees with at least six (6) continuous years of service. Longevity payment shall be <u>divided by the number of pay periods for the year and</u> included in each paycheck for employees who have completed the required number of years, <u>beginning with the first payroll period after their work anniversary. Additional vacation days earned for longevity will be issued to the employee on January 1 of the year in which their longevity anniversary is earned.</u> ***	Clarifies how employees are paid longevity pay and vacation days.
<u>4.5 Pay Day and Direct Deposit</u>	Employees are paid bi-weekly on every other Thursday. Each paycheck will include earnings for all work performed through the end of that payroll period (including overtime). In the event a regularly scheduled payday falls on a day off (e.g., a holiday), employees will receive pay on the last day of work before the regularly scheduled payday. Employees are offered to participate in the City's direct deposit program. Upon completing a registration form, the employee's paychecks are automatically deposited into (a) pre-specified account(s).	Employees are paid bi-weekly on every other Thursday. Each paycheck will include earnings for all work performed through the end of that payroll period (including overtime). In the event a regularly scheduled payday falls on a day off (e.g., a holiday), employees will receive pay on the last day of work before the regularly scheduled payday. <u>Each employee on the payroll will receive a payroll advice form (pay stub) electronically stating their pay, deductions, and accrued leave balances as of the end of the pay period. An employee may request a copy of their prior payroll advice maintained by the City by</u>	Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS 115/10(d).

<u>4.5 Pay Day and Direct Deposit (cont.)</u>		<u>submitting a written request to Human Resources or the Finance Director.</u> Employees are offered to participate in the City's direct deposit program. Upon completing a registration form, the employee's paychecks are automatically deposited into (a) pre-specified account(s).	
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[Index](#)

Section 5 – Employee Conduct

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
<u>5.2 Employee Code of Conduct</u>	It is the policy of the City of Crest Hill to conduct its business activities and transactions with the highest level of integrity and ethical standards and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. All employees must conduct themselves accordingly and seek to avoid even the appearance of improper behavior. Employees are expected to treat their co-workers as well as residents, vendors, and visitors with respect and dignity. Certain actions are inappropriate in the work setting. Listed below are some of the behaviors that are not appropriate. This is by no means an all-inclusive list. This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive and management reserves the right to decide upon appropriate disciplinary action for breaches of conduct. Violation of	It is the policy of the City of Crest Hill to conduct its business activities and transactions with the highest level of integrity and ethical standards and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. All employees must conduct themselves accordingly and seek to avoid even the appearance of improper behavior. Employees are expected to treat their co-workers as well as residents, vendors, and visitors with respect and dignity. Certain actions are inappropriate in the work setting. Listed below are some of the behaviors that are not appropriate. This is by no means an all-inclusive list. This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive and management reserves the right to decide upon appropriate disciplinary action for breaches of conduct. Violation of these standards will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.	Provides clarity to list of violations that may lead to discipline, adds conduct examples typical for inclusion in employee handbooks. Including these in writing provides necessary support for addressing unwanted conduct when or if it occurs.

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
5.2 Employee Code of Conduct (cont.)	these standards will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. • Activities prohibited by State and Federal statutes or City Ordinances. • Failure to meet prescribed standards of work. • Unapproved absenteeism or tardiness. • Threatening, intimidating, or coercing another employee or member of the public. • Willful destruction or damage to City property or the property of a fellow employee. • Dishonesty, including falsification of City records. • Insubordination or refusal to follow a direct lawful order. • Sleeping during work hours or leaving work without permission. • Theft or unauthorized possession of City property, the property of a fellow employee, or resident's property.	• Activities prohibited by State and Federal statutes or City Ordinances. • Failure to meet prescribed standards of work. • Unapproved absenteeism or tardiness. • Threatening, intimidating, or coercing another employee or member of the public. • Willful destruction or damage to City property or the property of a fellow employee. • Dishonesty, including falsification of City records. • Insubordination or refusal to follow a direct lawful order. • Sleeping during work hours <u>(except during sleeping time for employees on a 24-hour shift)</u> or leaving work without permission. • Theft or unauthorized possession, <u>use or removal</u> of City property, the property of a fellow employee, or resident's property, <u>whether on or off duty and regardless of value.</u> • Acceptance of any consideration from a third party intended to inappropriately influence the employee in the performance of his duties. • Use of official position for personal advantage.	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
5.2 Employee Code of Conduct (cont.)	• Acceptance of any consideration from a third party intended to inappropriately influence the employee in the performance of his duties. • Use of official position for personal advantage. • Intoxication during working hours, or while on call, including bringing intoxicating beverages, marijuana, and illegal substances on City property; the consuming of the same on City property or any other violation of the City's Substance Abuse Policy. • Violation of City safety rules. • Being found guilty of a crime that brings discredit to the City or hinders the employee's ability to satisfactorily perform the essential duties and functions of his position. • Discussion of confidential City business with unauthorized persons. • Misuse or illegal use of City telephones, computer privileges, or equipment. • Refusal to cooperate in an officially sanctioned investigation.	• <u>Possessing a weapon on City property or during working hours.</u> • <u>Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or drugs on City property or during working hours.</u> • <u>Possession or use of illegal substances at any time, whether on or off City property.</u> • <u>Reporting to work or working under the influence of alcohol or drugs or any other violation of the City's Substance Abuse Policy.</u> • <u>Driving a City vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.</u> • Violation of City safety rules <u>or policies.</u> • Being found guilty of a crime that brings discredit to the City or hinders the employee's ability to satisfactorily perform the essential duties and functions of his position. • <u>Gambling on City property.</u> • <u>Claiming sick or other leave under false pretenses.</u> • <u>Overstaying scheduled rest or lunch periods or taking excessive breaks.</u> • <u>Failing to maintain satisfactory or proper standards of dress, grooming, and cleanliness.</u>	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
5.2 Employee Code of Conduct (cont.)	• Violation of the City’s policies and procedures as set forth in the Employee Handbook. Employees have a duty to report behavior, misconduct, or activity that may be inconsistent with policies outlined in the Employee Handbook, illegal, or perceived to be inconsistent or illegal to their supervisors, Department Head, Personnel Officer, or City Administrator. Employees should exercise good judgement in determining to whom misconduct should be reported based on the perceived seriousness of the alleged behavior, misconduct, or activity. Additionally, employees have a duty to cooperate and comply with internal and external investigations regarding any violations of City policy or the Employee Handbook.	• <u>Use of foul or inappropriate language toward any employee or the public.</u> • Discussion of confidential City business with unauthorized persons. • Misuse or illegal use of City telephones, computer privileges, or equipment. • <u>Sexually or otherwise harassing another employee or member of the public.</u> • <u>Discriminating against another employee or member of the public on the basis of a Protected Category.</u> • <u>Being in unauthorized areas of City facilities.</u> • Refusal to cooperate in an officially sanctioned investigation. • Violation of the City’s policies and procedures as set forth in the Employee Handbook. Employees have a duty to report behavior, misconduct, or activity that may be inconsistent with policies outlined in the Employee Handbook, illegal, or perceived to be inconsistent or illegal to their supervisors, Department Head, Personnel Officer, or City Administrator. Employees should exercise good judgement in determining to whom misconduct should be reported based on the perceived seriousness of the alleged behavior, misconduct, or activity. Additionally, employees have a duty to	

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
<u>5.2 Employee Code of Conduct</u> (cont.)		cooperate and comply with internal and external investigations regarding any violations of City policy or the Employee Handbook.	
5.4 Harassment, Discrimination, Retaliation Prevention Policy	The City of Crest Hill prohibits harassment, discrimination, or retaliation against claims of such in its entirety. *** An employee who is suddenly transferred to a lower paying job or passed over for a promotion after filing a complaint with IDHR or EEOC, may file a retaliation charge with the appropriate body (such retaliation charges are due within 300 days of the alleged retaliatory action).	The City of Crest Hill prohibits harassment, discrimination, or retaliation against claims of such in its entirety. *** An employee who is suddenly transferred to a lower paying job or passed over for a promotion after filing a complaint with IDHR or EEOC, may file a retaliation charge with the appropriate body (such retaliation charges are due within 300 days of the alleged retaliatory action). *** <u>External Procedures for Filing a Complaint of Harassment or Discrimination</u> <u>The City hopes that any incident of harassment, discrimination or retaliation can be resolved through the internal process outlined above. All employees, however, have the right to file formal charges with the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) and/or the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). A charge with IDHR must be filed within 2 years of the incident. A charge with the EEOC must be filed within 300 days of the incident.</u>	Legal recommendation adds procedure for external resource and moves the 300 day reporting period to the added section.

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
		<u>The IDHR may be contacted as follows:</u> <u>CHICAGO (312) 814-6200 TTY</u> <u>(866) 740-3953</u> <u>The EEOC can be contacted as follows:</u> <u>CHICAGO (312) 872-9744 TTY</u> <u>(800) 669-6820</u>	

[Index](#)

Section 7 – Insurance and Other Employee Benefits

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
7.11 Illinois Transportation Benefits Account	None.	<u>The City supports environmentally friendly commuting options and the well-being of our employees. In accordance with the Illinois Transportation Benefits Program Act (820 ILCS 63), the City offers employees access to a pre-tax Transportation Benefit Account to allow employees to set aside up to \$340 per month to pay for transit passes on regional providers such as Metra, Pace, and CTA. For more information, employees should contact Human Resources.</u>	Added due to the passage of the Illinois Transportation Benefits Program Act, 820 ILCS 63. The amount of \$340 is dictated by IRC Section 132 (f).

[Index](#)

Section 8 – Holidays, Vacation & Leaves of Absence

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
8.6 Emergency / Bereavement	*** Employers may require documentation to verify the necessity of the leave. Child bereavement leave may not be taken in addition to unpaid leave permitted under the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq. (FMLA), and may not exceed unpaid leave time allowed under that law (FMLA).	*** Employers may require documentation to verify the necessity of the leave. Child bereavement leave may not be taken in addition to unpaid leave permitted under the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq. (FMLA), and may not exceed unpaid leave time allowed under that law (FMLA). <u>In accordance with the Illinois Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act, full time employees are entitled to use a maximum of 6 weeks of unpaid leave if the employee experiences the loss of a child by suicide or homicide (“CEBLA Leave”). CEBLA Leave may be taken in a single continuous period or intermittently in increments of no less than 4 hours, but CEBLA leave must be completed within one year after the employee notifies the City of the loss. An employee may choose, but is not required, to substitute any paid leave time an employer provides for time taken for CEBLA Leave. Employees must provide reasonable advance notice of the employee's intention to take leave, unless providing such notice is not reasonable and practicable. The City may require employees to submit reasonable documentation supporting their leave. This policy does not create a right for an employee to take unpaid leave that exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under, or is in addition to the unpaid leave time permitted by, the FMLA.</u>	Adds provision related to the Illinois Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act, available to full time employees. For employers with 50-249 employees, the permitted leave time is up to 6 weeks. (820 ILCS156)

		<u>An employee who uses CEBLA Leave because of the death of child may not take leave under the Child Bereavement Leave Act because of the death of the same child.</u>	
8.10 Military Leave	The following procedures and guidelines will apply to employees who serve in the United States Uniformed Services and who are absent due to active military service or training. This policy/procedure also clarifies the continuation of benefits and compensation during the period of leave. Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Military Leave of Absence will conform to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). All employees who serve are covered by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) whether full-time or part-time. An employee who is required to be absent from work because of service in the uniformed services of the United States will be granted a leave of absence. This includes voluntary or involuntary active duty, active duty training, inactive duty training, full-time National Guard duty or absence for examination to determine fitness for these types of duty. If an employee is called or volunteers for such military service, he will need to notify the	<u>City employees who are members of the uniformed or military services receive extended employment rights as set forth in the Illinois Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (ISERRA) (330 ILCS 61/1-1 et seq.), the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) (38 USCA 4301, et seq.) and all other applicable state and federal laws. This policy is not intended to grant any rights or impose any responsibilities in excess of those contained in state and federal law.</u> <u>If an employee needs leave for uniformed or military service, the employee must provide notice to their Department Head and Human Resources, along with a copy of their orders for service, as soon as they become aware of their need for leave. The City will provide leave for uniformed or military service in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law. An employee may, but is not required to, use accrued leave in conjunction with periods of paid and unpaid active service.</u> <u>During periods of uniformed or military leave, the City's health-plan benefits will continue in accordance with state and federal law. For periods of leave for active duty, the City will continue to pay the employer's share of the full premium and administrative costs related to the continuation of health-plan benefits.</u>	A substantial portion of the laws cited in existing language has been repealed by PA 100-1101 – ISERRA and by PA 100-1101. Replacement language follows current laws and procedures.

8.10 Military Leave (cont.)	Personnel Officer as soon as possible prior to commencement of the leave. Military Leave by Type and Corresponding Pay and Benefits: Leave Due to Mobilization by Presidential Order In accordance with the Local Government Employees Benefits Continuation Act (50 ILCS 140/1), full and part-time employees who are members of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, including the Illinois National Guard, are entitled to leave and differential pay. This becomes effective when the employee is mobilized to active duty by an order from the President of the United States and only for the duration of his active military service. 1. Differential pay is defined as the difference between an employee's pre-service regular pay and the employee's military base pay when the regular pay is the higher of the two. In cases where the military base pay is higher than the employee's regular pay, no differential will be paid. 2. Health insurance and any other benefits that the employee was receiving at the time of mobilization will continue during this leave period as well. 3. Employees mobilized by order of the President must submit copies of the orders and	<u>During periods of military leave for annual training or orders in lieu of annual training, employees continue to receive full concurrent compensation for up to 30 calendar days per year. Employees who have exhausted concurrent compensation for annual training may receive differential pay for annual training, as set forth and limited by law.</u> <u>During periods of leave for active service, employees receive differential compensation, meaning pay due when the employee's rate of compensation for military service is less than their daily rate of compensation as a public employee. In the case of differential pay, the employee will receive their regular compensation as a public employee minus the amount of base pay for active service. Differential compensation is only provided for paid active service and excludes periods of unpaid active service such as travel, rest periods, and other service where the employee does not receive pay from the military. Employees may elect, but are not required, to use accrued leave with pay in lieu of differential compensation during any period of military leave.</u> <u>Differential compensation for voluntary active service is limited to 60 workdays in a calendar year. After an employee is absent from employment for a consecutive 3-year period while performing voluntary active service, the employee shall no longer receive differential compensation. Such an employee must return to work for more than 90 calendar days in order to again be eligible differential pay.</u>	
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8.10 Military Leave (cont.)	documentation of military base salary prior to deployment, if possible. Leave Due to Annual Training In accordance with the Military Leave of Absence Act (5 ILCS 325/1), full-time employees who are members of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or Illinois State Militia are entitled to leave and full pay to attend annual training. The employee's seniority and other benefits shall continue to accrue during this leave period. Part-time employees are provided leave but will not receive pay. Leave Due to Basic Training Full-time employees who are members of the aforementioned Military Services are entitled to leave and to differential pay to attend basic training. The employee's seniority and other benefits shall continue to accrue. Part-time employees are granted leave but no pay to attend basic training. Procedures for Differential Pay and Benefit Continuation Differential pay will be paid to the employee in the form of a 1099. Differential payments are not subject to FUTA, FICA or income taxes. In accordance with the Public Employee Armed Services Rights Act (5 ILCS 330/1), vacation and sick time will continue to accrue while the		
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8.10 Military Leave (cont.)	employee is on leave. Any benefits the employee had before taking leave are preserved as well. Health insurance premiums may be deducted from the differential payments. In the event there is no deduction made for health insurance premiums, the employee is responsible for remitting payment to the City for monthly premiums. Procedures for Reporting Back to Work In accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA), employees must adhere to the following procedures in reporting back to work after the military assignment is completed: Service of 1 - 30 days: The employee must report to work on the next scheduled work day following completion of service, safe travel home from the military duty location, and an eight (8) hour rest period. Service of 31 – 180 days: The employee must request reinstatement no later than fourteen (14) days after completion of the military service. Service of 181 or more days: The employee must request reinstatement no later than ninety (90) days after completion of the military service. The City reserves the right to request documentation for military leaves of absence in		
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8.10 Military Leave (cont.)	excess of thirty-one (31) days. If the employee fails to report to work or request reinstatement Family within the required time limits, he may be subject to the City's unexcused absences procedure.		
Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
8.11 Family Military Leave / <u>Funeral Honors Leave</u>	In accordance with the Military Leave Act (820 ILCS 151/1), the City will grant up to thirty (30) days of unpaid leave to the spouse or parents of a soldier called to active military duty for more than thirty (30) days. The City will require certification from the proper military authority to verify employee eligibility for family military leave. Family military leave is unpaid. Before taking unpaid family military leave, employees must exhaust all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other applicable leave, except sick leave and disability. During unpaid family military leave, employees may continue their benefits at the expense of the employee. Employees who take family military leave will be reinstated to the same position or a position with the same seniority, status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. The City is not required to reinstate employees if they are not reinstated because of conditions that are not related to taking family military leave.	In accordance with the Family Military Leave Act (820 ILCS 151/1), the City will grant up to thirty (30) days of unpaid leave to the spouse or parents of a soldier called to active military duty for more than thirty (30) days. The City will require certification from the proper military authority to verify employee eligibility for family military leave. Family military leave is unpaid. Before taking unpaid family military leave, employees must exhaust all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other applicable leave, except sick leave and disability. During unpaid family military leave, employees may continue their benefits at the expense of the employee. Employees who take family military leave will be reinstated to the same position or a position with the same seniority, status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. The City is not required to reinstate employees if they are not reinstated because of conditions that are not related to taking family military leave. The City will not interfere with, restrain, or deny employees' rights to family military leave. The City	Updates language to adopt current laws; adds language related to participation in military funeral honors.

8.11 Family Military Leave / <u>Funeral Honors Leave</u> (cont.)	The City will not interfere with, restrain, or deny employees' rights to family military leave. The City will not discipline, or in any manner discriminate against employees who take family military leave. Employees must give the City at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the date they intend to start taking family military leave of five (5) or more consecutive work days. To the extent possible, employees must consult with the City to schedule the leave so as to not unduly disrupt the City's operations. Employees taking family military leave of less than five (5) consecutive days must give the City as much advanced notice as practicable.	will not discipline, or in any manner discriminate against employees who take family military leave. Employees must give the City at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the date they intend to start taking family military leave of five (5) or more consecutive work days. To the extent possible, employees must consult with the City to schedule the leave so as to not unduly disrupt the City's operations. Employees taking family military leave of less than five (5) consecutive days must give the City as much advanced notice as practicable. <u>The City shall grant at least eight (8) hours of paid leave per month up to a total of forty (40) hours in a calendar year to allow an employee who is specifically trained to participate in funeral honors details for veterans to participate in these details. This leave shall not diminish or reduce in any way the employee's accrued paid leave. Any employee requesting this leave shall provide the City with evidence of their training and reasonable notice and documentation for the need for the leave.</u>	
8.12 Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA)	In accordance with the Illinois Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (820 ILCS 180/1), known as VESSA, an employee is entitled to up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave per year, and/or reasonable accommodation for one of the following reasons: ***	In accordance with the Illinois Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (820 ILCS 180/1), known as VESSA, an employee is entitled to up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave per year, and/or reasonable accommodation for one of the following reasons: *** <u>The City shall not discriminate nor take any disciplinary action against an employee who uses a City-provided electronic devices, including laptops or</u>	Adds provision that specifies no discrimination or discipline for an employee that uses City equipment to record instances of violence in compliance with Illinois Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180.

		<u>cell phones, to record instances of domestic, sexual, or gender violence.</u>	
8.17 Workers Compensation	*** <u>Transitional Duty</u> A Transitional Duty program may be valuable in the rehabilitation of injured employees and may potentially reduce workers' compensation costs. The purpose of establishing a Transitional Duty program is to provide temporary work for employees who are temporarily disabled and cannot be assigned to regular work duties but are able to perform another types of production work. The duties to be performed by the employee will consist of bona fide work that will be limited in duration and is intended for employees who are expected to return to full duty in the near future. The City is not obligated to provide Transitional Duty assignments.	*** <u>Transitional (Light) Duty</u> A <u>transitional or light duty assignment</u> may be valuable in the rehabilitation of injured employees and may potentially reduce workers' compensation costs. The purpose of establishing a <u>transitional duty assignment</u> is to provide temporary work for employees who <u>have been injured during work and</u> are temporarily disabled and cannot be assigned to regular work duties but are able to perform another types of production work. The duties to be performed by the employee will consist of bona fide work that will be limited in duration and is intended for employees who are expected to return to full duty in the near future. The City is not obligated to provide <u>transitional duty assignments and employees will only be assigned transitional duty assignments when the City Administrator determines that the need exists, and only as long as such need exists.</u>	Makes clarifications to Transitional/Light Duty provisions.
8.18 Pregnancy	None	<u>8.18 PREGNANCY</u> <u>Any employee who becomes pregnant while employed with the City shall immediately notify the City of her condition. Upon notice of pregnancy, the city shall provide the pregnant employee with options regarding the employee's duties with the</u>	Adds provisions related to pregnancy; cites the Pregnancy Discrimination Act amendment to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Illinois Pregnancy Discrimination Law, 775 ILCS 5/2-102(l).

8.18 Pregnancy (cont.)		<u>City. The City shall offer the employee non-hazardous duty options, if the employee performs hazardous duties as a routine part of her duties, in order to enable the employee to avoid any potential hazards. The decision to accept non-hazardous duty or remain on her current duty shall be solely up to the pregnant employee. The pregnant employee will not lose her job, nor will the pregnant employee lose any pay, or benefits should she accept non-hazardous duty. The pregnant employee will not lose any seniority or eligibility for promotion should she choose the non-hazardous duty assignment.</u> <u>Should the pregnant employee choose to remain on her current duty assignment, it shall be the sole responsibility of the employee to receive clearance from her OB-GYN or physician to continue working in such capacity. The pregnant employee shall present the City with her OB-GYN's or physician's clearance immediately following each scheduled examination with her OB-GYN or physician. If at any time the City Administrator has reason to believe that the pregnant employee's condition interferes with her ability to perform her duties and may affect the safety of the pregnant woman, other employees or the members of the public, the City Administrator shall immediately place the pregnant employee on non-hazardous duty.</u> <u>The option for non-hazardous duty shall be available to any pregnant employee during her pregnancy and throughout the period of breastfeeding if the employee chooses to breastfeed her newborn child. The City shall hold the pregnant employee's job open</u>	
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8.18 Pregnancy (cont.)		<u>for the same period of time afforded to other sick or disabled employees. The City shall further provide leave for an employee who is pregnant, recovering from childbirth, or caring for a newborn in accordance with the City's general leave policies.</u> <u>The City shall take no actions which discriminate against any employee based on pregnancy or any condition associated with pregnancy as provided by Federal or Illinois law, including the Illinois Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act, 820 ILCS 260/1.</u> <u>The City shall provide to nursing mothers paid break time to allow the employee to express milk. This break time may coincide with other break times. The City may deny the use of break time for this purpose if allowing the employee to take the break will place an undue hardship on City operations.</u> <u>The City shall provide up to twenty (20) days of unpaid leave to any employee to care for a child who is a patient in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). This leave shall be in addition to any available leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and may be used intermittently. This leave may be granted in minimum blocks of two (2) hours.</u> <u>Nothing in this policy shall violate the Pregnancy Discrimination Act amendment to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Illinois Pregnancy Discrimination Law, 775 ILCS 5/2-102(l).</u>	
8.19 Blood Donation Leave	None	<u>8.19 Blood Donation Leave</u>	Adds provision related to Blood and Organ Donation Leave Act (820 ILCS 8 149)

8.19 Blood Donation Leave (cont.)		<u>Full-time employees may receive up to one hour of paid leave every 56 days to donate blood.</u> <u>Full-time and part-time employees may receive up to ten days of paid leave in any 12-month period to donate tissue such as organs, skin, bone, etc. to a living donor. For part-time employees, leave will be paid based on the employee's daily average pay during the previous two months of employment.</u> <u>An employee must have been employed by the City for at least six months to receive leave under this Section. Employees may take leave only after obtaining approval from their Department Head. The City may require employees to submit reasonable documentation supporting their leave.</u>	
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[Index](#)

Section 9 – Safety & Equipment Use

Section	Current Text	Proposed Text	Reason for Update
9.6 Weapon Free Workplace Policy	*** “City property” is defined as all City owned and leased buildings and their contents and surrounding areas such as sidewalks and walkways under the City’s ownership or control and work sites where City employees are engaged. This policy applies to all City owned or leased vehicles.	*** “City property” is defined as <u>any building or facility owned, leased or controlled by the City; any vehicle or equipment owned, leased or controlled by the City; any public playground; or any area that is associated with City employment.</u>	Clarifies definition. The Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act prohibits employers (including municipalities) from prohibiting employees from storing, legal concealed firearms in their personal, locked vehicle.

[Index](#)



Agenda Memo**Crest Hill, IL**

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2026
Submitter:	Blaine Wing, City Administrator
Department:	Administration
Agenda Item:	Draft Executive Conference Room Use Policy Discussion

Summary: Recently staff presented City Council with a preliminary draft Executive Conference Room Use Policy. Direction was given and the previous document was adjusted. During staff review, it was noted that occasionally there could be exceptions to the room being used, and those were identified and included in the updated draft. In discussing who would make the decision, a process was created and is contained within the draft.

Recommended Council Action: Obtain comments and guidance from City Council.

Attachment: Draft Executive Conference Room Use Policy

Executive Conference Room Usage Policy for Executive Sessions

Item 2.

Effective August 3, 2026, until amended, modified, or repealed, the City of Crest Hill Executive Conference Room shall be the preferred location for City Council Executive Session meetings. The room has a maximum occupancy of 20 people, as established by the applicable fire code, and Executive Session meetings should generally be held in this room whenever it is practical and feasible to do so.

Exceptions to the use of the Executive Conference Room for confidential Executive Session meetings may be made when circumstances warrant an alternative meeting location, including but not limited to:

- Attendance is expected to exceed the room's 20-person occupancy limit.
- The room temperature is uncomfortable (hot or cold) or otherwise unsuitable for occupancy.
- Technical difficulties exist with computers, displays, audio recording equipment, internet connectivity, or other equipment necessary for conducting the meeting.
- Health-related concerns exist, including situations where close proximity of attendees may increase the potential spread of a cold, flu, or other communicable illness.
- Severe weather conditions, weather alerts, or other emergency circumstances make it advisable to relocate meetings to a safer location, including the building's basement or other designated shelter area.
- Accessibility, operational, logistical, or other practical considerations make another meeting location more appropriate.

The Mayor (or their designee) as the chair of the meeting, after consulting with the City Administrator (or their designee) and City Clerk (or their designee) shall determine when an exception is appropriate and authorize the use of an alternative meeting location.

This policy is intended to promote efficient use of City facilities while allowing reasonable flexibility to address operational needs and unforeseen circumstances.



Agenda Memo**Crest Hill, IL**

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2026
Submitter:	Blaine Wing, City Administrator
Department:	Administration
Agenda Item:	2026-27 Smart Water Meter Hardship Assistance Program

Summary: Last year (2025) the City had a Smart Water Meter Hardship Assistance Program that expired on 12/31/25. During the pilot program only a few residents applied for and used it.

The City has since received a letter from an elderly resident requesting assistance. This resident would have qualified if the program was still in place. Thus, at this time, staff are asking to re-activate the program through the end of 2027. There are now approximately 30 non-smart meters throughout the City, thus the potential cost is minimal.

Note: There remains a \$50 fee for manual meter read, for each read. Thus, staff expects that could be some additional residents that might take advantage of a reactivated program.

Recommended Council Action: Obtain comments and guidance from City Council.

Attachment: 2026-27 Smart Water Meter Hardship Assistance Program

2026-27 Smart Water Meter Hardship Assistance Program

Purpose: To ensure all residents can complete smart water meter installations the City will continue offering financial support for plumbing-related challenges, either through direct assistance or a no-interest loan. Additionally, while the City still requires a permit to adjust/move/replace hot water tanks, the City will waive the \$50 permit fee if the adjustment or move (even temporary) is necessary to install the smart meter.

Program Options – Only one OR the other:

1. Hardship Grant.

- **Maximum Assistance:** Up to \$300 per household.
- **Eligibility Window:** August 4, 2026 – December 31, 2027.*
- **Requirements:**
 - Plumbing issue must directly prevent smart meter installation.
 - Resident must demonstrate financial hardship or have previously reported hardship with City Administrator having final approval.
 - Receipts required for reimbursement or verification.
 - Residents with prior hardship applications may reuse them but must submit receipts for this program.

*If a resident can demonstrate a financial hardship and previously paid for a plumbing issue that prevented a smart meter to be installed, the City Administrator can review their application as if it was submitted during the eligibility window.

2. 36-Month 0% Interest Loan.

- **Eligibility:** Residents who do not qualify for the hardship grant.
- **Loan Terms:**
 - Up to \$300 for eligible plumbing work.
 - 0% interest over 36 months.
 - Monthly payments of approximately \$8.33.
- **Requirements:**
 - Plumbing issue must be verified by installer or city staff.
 - Resident must sign a loan agreement and provide receipts.

- Loan is billed through the resident's water utility account.
-

Application Process

1. **Assessment:** Installer identifies plumbing-related barrier.
 2. **Application Submission:** Resident completes form and attaches receipts.
 3. **Review & Approval:** City verifies eligibility and selects grant or loan option.
 4. **Disbursement:** Grant recipients are reimbursed, or at City's discretion, City pays contractor directly; loan recipients begin monthly billing.
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Communication Plan

- Include program details in letters to non-compliant households.
- Post on City's website and social media.
- Train installers and customer service staff to explain both options.



Agenda Memo**Crest Hill, IL**

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2026
Submitter:	Blaine Wing, City Administrator
Department:	Administration
Agenda Item:	Draft Confidential Policy for Elected & Appointed Officials

Summary: Attorney Stiff updated the preliminary draft document and placed that information in to the attached draft policy document for City Council's discussion and consideration.

Attorney Stiff removed two (2) previous items, as we felt those should be discussed for different policy discussions. Additionally, other areas were updated.

On Monday, Attorney Stiff will walk through the attached draft policy document in hopes of refining the document for possible adoption at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Recommended Council Action: Obtain comments and guidance from City Council.

Attachment: Draft Confidential Policy for Elected & Appointed Officials

CITY OF CREST HILL POLICY FOR THE TREATMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND CLOSED SESSION INFORMATION AND MATERIALS

This policy shall be applicable to Elected Officials who receive confidential information or other materials, including confidential materials and information discussed or disseminated during closed session meetings held pursuant to an exception in the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Cell Phone Usage during Open Meetings

Cell phone use during meetings (including executive sessions) by any elected official, appointed official, staff member, or any other person that is a part of the meeting is discouraged, except for emergency situations where that person should step out of the meeting to handle the emergency. Texts, chat messages, emails, and other written cell phone communications that occur during public meetings are subject to FOIA and could also cause legal issues-especially if made during a meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act.

In addition, no photographs, videos, or audio recordings (except for the official recordings by the City Clerk or Deputy) shall be taken by elected officials during any executive session held by the City Council, any commission or committee or commission of the City.

Treatment of written confidential material (handouts or documents)

Any written confidential materials that are distributed during an executive session shall be collected at the end of the executive session by the City Attorney or any other specially designated counsel and destroyed. However, the City Attorney/designated special counsel shall keep a copy of any handout or document in the event it needs to be referenced later. This will help maintain the attorney client privilege and protect the City from unwarranted or inadvertent dissemination.

Conversations and written communications that should be protected from public dissemination, especially attorney client privileged communications on legal issues should occur only between the City Attorney and the city council members and not solely between other council members or members of the public.

Maintenance of Confidentiality

Elected and appointed city officials shall always keep confidential and confidential closed session information from being disseminated beyond those in attendance at closed session meetings or beyond the group of elected officials and staff that are included in confidential (including attorney client) communications.

Breaches of confidentiality or attorney/client privilege by elected officials must be discussed during an open meeting, as there is no exception for discussing these topics during closed sessions. The City Council may take action if it determines that a breach of confidentiality or a breach of the City's attorney/client privilege has taken place. Depending on the nature and severity of the breach, those actions include public censure or referral of the case to the Will County State's Attorney's Office or Illinois Attorney General's Office for further investigation or prosecution.

It should be noted that Section 3.5-55-15 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/3.1-55-15), provides a penalty for misconduct by a City Officer:

“Every municipal officer who is guilty of a culpable omission of duty, or who is guilty of willful and corrupt oppression, misconduct, or misfeasance in the discharge of the duties of office, shall be guilty of a business offense and, on conviction, shall be fined not less than \$501 nor more than \$1,000. The court entering the conviction shall enter an order removing the convicted officer from office.”

Annual Training regarding Elected Officials’ Duties and Responsibilities

All elected officials shall complete annual training with an organization such as the Will County Governmental League, to review the duties and responsibilities of each elected office (Mayor, Alderperson, City Clerk, and City Treasurer).

All City Staff who are responsible for handling confidential information as part of their job duties shall be required to complete training on the maintenance of confidentiality with an organization such as the Will County Governmental League.

Once completed, all certificates of completion of the annual training required by this Policy shall be submitted to the Human Resources Director for record-keeping purposes.

Biennial training session on Attorney Client Privilege

Every other year, all elected officials and appointed officers shall complete an in-house training session with the City Attorney to refresh them on the topic of attorney/client privilege. The City holds the privilege and thus, the elected officials and appointed officers of the City are covered by the privilege when they have protected conversations with the City’s Attorneys with respect to legal advice and legal matters. If an elected official or appointed officer communicates privileged information to certain unprotected staff members, the privilege can be broken, making the communication subject to general disclosure or even FOIA. Further, while certain information discussed in executive session may not be protected under the attorney/client privilege, even when the attorney is present, that information remains confidential and should not be disclosed beyond the executive session. This includes personnel issues, the purchase and/or sale of property, negotiations of Collective Bargaining Agreements and other contracts. Thus, it is imperative that all elected officials and appointed officers understand how the attorney/client privilege works.

In addition to the Biennial training session for elected officials and appointed officers, all staff who may handle attorney/client privileged matters shall also complete a similar in-house training session with a City Attorney.

Annual Open Meetings Act Training

All elected officials and as required appointed officers shall complete training on the Open Meetings Act (OMA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), ethics, harassment, and cyber training and provide Human Resources Director with certificates of completion of the annual training required by this Policy for record keeping purposes.

Closed Sessions

As a general rule, public business must be conducted in public. However, the Illinois Open Meetings Act (“OMA”) authorizes specific topics to be discussed in closed session. Although OMA allows for a closed session if the exception is met, OMA does not mandate a public body to

go into closed session for a matter covered by an OMA exception. Thus, if the City Council desires to share the information discussed in executive session with the public, then the City Council should not go into an executive session for said topic and instead discuss the topic in open session for the public to hear. This will remove any potential for a breach and will not involve the attorney client privilege.

Additional Security Measures

The City has implemented multi-factor authentication (MFA) for employees and during 2026 will require elected officials and appointed officers who have access to the City's email to also utilize MFA to maintain secure email communication. Further, when the City implements encryption and password protection systems, all elected officials and appointed officers shall also be required to utilize said systems to further protect confidential and privileged information and documents from unwarranted disclosure.

Approved: _____



Agenda Memo

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2026
Submitter:	Blaine Wing, City Administrator
Department:	Administration
Agenda Item:	Naming the Plaza/Park – Draft Name: Crest Hill Commons

Summary: As the City prepares to apply for the OSLAD grant, the City needs to have a name for the project. A name is also needed for the letters of support that we will be seeking as soon as next week.

Internally, we have come up with calling the area the Crest Hill Commons. This is needed very soon, so we can get letters of support from our State Representatives and Senators, as well as from the Park, Library, Fire, and School districts. The reason why this name is currently being used is because this placemaking space is to be used for various events, it's more than a park, and it will hopefully become the City's central gathering/meeting space.

As such, staff are seeking comments and guidance from City Council.

Recommended Council Action: Comments and guidance from City Council.

(Date)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Grant Management and Assistance

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Crest Hill's OSLAD Grant Application for the New Crest Hill Commons

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter in strong support for the City of Crest Hill's application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program.

The proposed Crest Hill Commons will create a welcoming public space that expands outdoor recreational opportunities and enhances the quality of life for Crest Hill residents of all ages and abilities. The City has demonstrated a strong commitment to this project by investing in comprehensive planning and professional design to ensure the improvements reflect the community's current and future recreational needs. Once completed, the plaza will provide a modern, flexible, and memorable destination for festivals, concerts, community celebrations, markets, and everyday recreation.

This City project will be broken into several different phases to maximize long-term community benefit. Phase 1 will establish the foundation for the future plaza through the construction of a new parking lot, a new inclusive playground, security and pedestrian lighting, a site-wide sound system, ADA accessible pedestrian pathways, and other essential site improvements. These improvements will create a safe, accessible, and inviting public recreational destination for residents of all ages while positioning the site for future recreational amenities and community-oriented programming.

We strongly support the City of Crest Hill's OSLAD grant application and respectfully request your favorable consideration of this important investment. The project will provide lasting recreational, social, and economic benefits for the community and will serve as a valuable public asset for generations to come.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Title)

(Organization)



Work Session Memo

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date:	July 27, 2026
Submitter:	Daniel Ritter, Community Development Director
Department:	Community Development
Agenda Item:	Direction on Zoning Ordinance Use Amendment – Data Centers

Summary:

City staff periodically reviews the Zoning Ordinance and other development regulations to ensure they remain effective in advancing the City's goals related to economic development, land use compatibility, community appearance, and quality of life. As part of this ongoing review, staff has identified data centers as an emerging land use that is not currently defined or specifically addressed within the City's Zoning Ordinance. Staff is seeking preliminary policy direction from the Plan Commission and City Council as updates to the Zoning Ordinance use table are prepared.

At this time, the City has not received any proposals or inquiries regarding the development of a data center. Additionally, the limited availability of large development sites within Crest Hill may make this type of development unlikely, given the substantial land area typically required along with distances from residential development. However, staff believes it is appropriate to proactively establish a definition for data centers and determine how the use should be regulated before a development proposal is received.

Data centers are a relatively new land use, and information regarding their overall community impacts continues to evolve. Demand for these facilities has increased significantly due to the rapid growth of cloud computing, digital services, and artificial intelligence (AI). While data centers can provide economic benefits to communities, they also present unique planning and infrastructure considerations.

Potential benefits of data centers include increased property tax revenue, private investment in public infrastructure such as roads, water, and sewer systems, redevelopment opportunities for challenging or contaminated sites, and relatively low demand for municipal services and schools due to limited employment and the absence of residential uses. Conversely, data centers typically require substantial electrical capacity and cooling systems, which creates concerns regarding energy consumption, water usage, infrastructure capacity, noise from mechanical equipment and backup generators, and potential impacts on utility costs. Because the industry is evolving rapidly, long-term impacts remain uncertain, and available research often presents differing or unclear conclusions.

Several large-scale data center developments have recently been approved or are under construction in neighboring communities in the region, including Joliet, Minooka, and Yorkville. At the state level, the Illinois General Assembly has also considered legislation addressing data center development, including proposals related to utility demand, environmental impacts, and statewide development standards.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the limited amount of land suitable for data center development within Crest Hill, the evolving nature of the industry, and the uncertainty regarding its long-term impacts, staff recommends amending the Zoning Ordinance to establish a definition for data centers, while prohibiting the use in all zoning districts.

This approach provides clarity within the Zoning Ordinance and ensures that the City has a clear regulatory framework in place should a proposal be submitted in the future. If additional information becomes available, market conditions change, or the City determines that data centers may be appropriate under certain circumstances, the Zoning Ordinance can be amended through the standard text amendment process following public review and consideration by the Plan Commission and City Council.

With an upcoming proposal, staff will be evaluating multiple uses across all zoning districts, and this change will be coordinated with that overall Zoning Ordinance text amendment.

Recommended Council Action: Direct staff to conduct any additional necessary research and prepare draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance defining data centers and prohibiting their use in all zoning districts for consideration at a future Plan Commission public hearing.



Agenda Memo**Crest Hill, IL**

Meeting Date: 7/27/2026
Submitter: Gary Richardson, Director of Public Works
Department: Public Works
Agenda Item: Update on Jasmine Ditch Cleanup Project

Summary:

This memo provides an update on the upcoming Jasmine Ditch cleanup project. Staff intend to contract Thorton Equipment to perform the cleanup operations. The project will be executed in two phases due to staffing. The total cost for the entire scope of work will be less than \$20,000.00 for Phase I.

Work is expected to be done within a week, and further updates will be provided.

Recommended Council Action: No action. Informational.

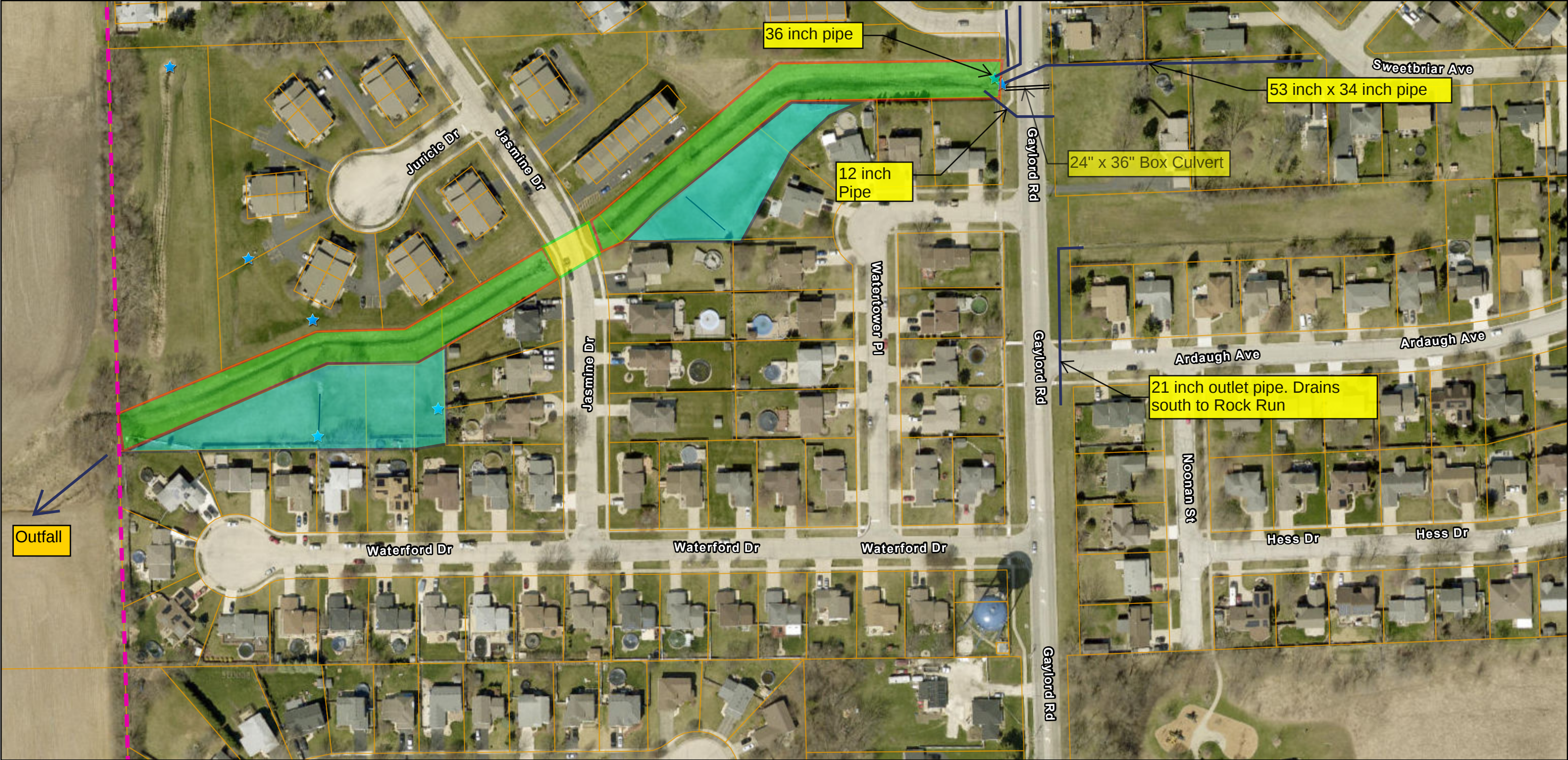
Financial Impact:

Funding Source:

Budgeted Amount:

Cost: < \$20,000.00

Attachments: Map attached.

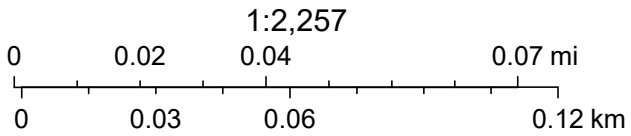


1/23/2026, 9:17:40 AM

- City Limits
- Parcels
- Storm Outfalls
- Storm Culverts

Proposed Maintenance Limits for Jasmine Ditch

- Limits of Ownership the City is working on acquiring-Limits of maintenance work being proposed
- Private Ownership



County of Will, Microsoft, Vantor, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community