



Memorandum

To: City Council Members

CC: David E. Weiss, Mayor
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works
John Potts, Director of Finance

From: Joyce G. Braverman, Director of Planning, Planning
Kara Kamley O'Donnell, Principal Planner, Planning
Cameron Roberts, Planner, Planning

Subject: 2022 Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant; Application for **Warrensville West Cemetery Gravestone Restoration**

Date: January 18, 2022

This is a request to authorize a grant application to, and to accept a grant from, the Ohio History Connection's Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program in order to restore urgent-priority gravestones within Warrensville West Cemetery. The Planning Department will submit a grant application for \$25,000 with the requirement for (40%) local match consisting of a \$15,000 cash match and \$1,666 in-kind match.

Approximately \$100,000 in funds are made available each year for the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program for activities that further historic preservation. The grants are only available to those communities designated as CLGs. Shaker Heights has regularly applied for and received funding through this grant since becoming a Certified Local Government in 1993. CLG grants are federal funds administered by the Ohio History Connection.

In 2021, the City received funds through the CLG grant program to create a Historic Preservation Master Plan for Warrensville West Cemetery, which is a designated local landmark, the second-oldest burial ground in Cuyahoga County, and is owned and maintained by the City. The City issued a Request for Proposals in May 2021 and hired Mannik Smith Group (MSG) to create the Plan in August 2021. Primary goals of the Plan include identifying existing resources and creating a framework to preserve, protect, and maintain the burial ground's historical, archaeological, architectural, and cultural value, that will increase the site's attractiveness, and assure that maintenance and security are properly guided. The Plan is nearly complete and will be adopted by the Landmark Commission, City Planning Commission, and City Council in the upcoming months.

Through this planning process, the consultants created an inventory of 170 visible gravestone markers in the cemetery, which includes an assessment of their current condition and prioritization for restoration. MSG identified over 50 gravestones as an urgent priority, meaning they are

considered a public hazard or are at risk of further damage and require immediate action to be preserved. This proposed grant application will request funds for gravestone restoration services, including: resetting stones, treating biological growth, removing interfering plantings and roots, remedying previous temporary fixes, and cleaning as needed.

The project consultants estimate the cost of restoring these urgent-priority gravestones to be \$40,000. The City currently has \$15,000 appropriated for this project in the Capital Budget under 2020 Community Project funds and the remainder of needed project funds will be requested through the CLG grant program. A breakdown of the project funding is below:

City Funds (appropriated in Capital Budget)	\$15,000
CLG Grant Request	\$25,000
Local in-kind match (project management)	\$ 1,666
Total	\$41,666

At its January 6, 2021, meeting, the Safety & Public Works Committee asked for clarification about the source of damage to the cemetery’s gravestones. Staff confirmed that almost all of the gravestone damage was from the age of the stones and very little was from vandalism. Staff stated they were unable to connect with descendents of those buried in the cemetery--the last burial here was in the 1950s making such outreach challenging. The Committee unanimously approved the request.

At the January 18, 2021, meeting, the Finance Committee commented that the cemetery is an important part of the Lee Road corridor, adding a pastoral element along this busy roadway. Restoration of this cemetery will stand as a statewide example of creating a preservation plan and using that as a guide to reestablish an important historic asset. Staff was asked whether, if this funding was not granted, the City would proceed with restoring fewer stones using allotted Community Project funds. Staff said they would consider it, but would likely apply for future CLG funding or other grant funding to allow the City funds to go farther. The Committee unanimously approved the request.

Recommendation. This is a request for City Council to authorize a grant application to, and to accept a grant from, the Ohio History Connection’s Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program in order to restore urgent-priority gravestones at Warrensville West Cemetery. The application request will be in the amount of \$25,000. The required \$15,000 local cash match will come from 2020 Community Project funds already appropriated in the Capital Budget.

We request that this be passed on first reading and as an emergency because grant applications and supporting legislation are due to Ohio History Connection on February 18, 2022. Grant recipients will be notified of awards in spring 2022.

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing the City to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio History Connection Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program in the amount of up to \$25,000 for the restoration of urgent-priority gravestones within the Warrensville West Cemetery, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program provides local governments an opportunity to protect and enhance properties of historic and architectural significance; and

WHEREAS, the grants are only available to those communities designated as CLGs and the City has applied for and received funding through this grant since becoming a Certified Local Government in 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Planning has determined that the City should submit an application to the Ohio History Connection Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program for funds to restore urgent-priority gravestones within the Warrensville West Cemetery, in the total amount of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000), with a match of \$15,000 of City funds being required for this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. This Council hereby authorizes the City to apply for and accept a grant of up to \$25,000 from the Ohio History Connection Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program, for the restoration of urgent-priority gravestones within the Warrensville West Cemetery. A match of \$15,000 of City funds is required.

Section 2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements as may be necessary to accept the foregoing grant, as approved by the Director of Law.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is necessary in the current operation of the City, and, to meet the grant application deadline of February 18, 2022, and therefore, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor.

Enacted

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2022.

DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

Attest:

JERI E. CHAIKIN
Clerk of Council
coun22/0118CLGgrant-CemeteryGravestone