



## CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

**Agenda Item 1**  
**June 5, 2017**

**SUBJECT:** Approval to expend \$136,630.62 of the Fuerst Sisters fund to enhance the Novi Civic Center's Community Center and formally name the area "The Fuerst Senior Citizens Wing."

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services/Older Adult Services

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:** *PK*

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Fuerst sisters, Iva and Ruby, owned/occupied their family house and property on the southeast corner of Taft and 10 Mile Roads for many years. The Fuerst sisters sold/gave a portion of their farm to the Novi Community School District around 1973, with the stipulation that the land would be used for public use. The former Novi Public Library was built on a portion of the property in 1975, Novi High School in 1977, the Police Department in 1980 and the Novi Civic Center in 1987. After the passing of the Fuerst sisters in 1991, the City of Novi purchased the remaining homestead, in 1997 and in 2009, created Fuerst Park.

When Iva and Ruby Fuerst passed in 1991, they left \$75,000 to the City in a will that was restricted to "furnishing a wing dedicated to senior citizens of Novi" if the City constructs a community building on the land previously sold by the Fuersts to the Board of Education Novi Community School District (a portion of which property is now the site of the Civic Center). That donation amount has grown, through the accumulation of interest, to more than \$136,000. The will further stipulated that the wing of the community center so furnished would be called the "Fuerst Senior Citizens Wing."

PRCS, Facilities and Finance staff have worked collaboratively on a plan for improvements at the Novi Civic Center, including renovation of existing floor, walls, hallways and related lighting in the Community Center area of the building; as well as program supplies (message board, signage and fitness equipment) for use in that area, using the funds as the Fuerst sisters intended. Below is a priority list of improvements for the Novi Civic Center's Four Quarters.

#### Priority Facility Improvement Items:

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|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Remove and replace flooring:                         | \$34,330 |
| - Product: Armstrong Excelon VCT                        |          |
| 2. Removal and replace lighting:                        | \$38,740 |
| - Product: 2x2 LED fixture with dimming in each quarter |          |

3. Remove and replace ceiling tile: - Product: Armstrong radar 2x2	\$27,035
4. Paint block wall:	\$3,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$103,105</b>

Fitness Equipment:

1. Misc. Medicine Balls, Resistance Bands, Weights, etc.	\$3,000
2. Construct fitness storage closet	\$2,500
3. Wall mounted fans	\$3,000
4. Digital Message Board display wall and signage	\$7,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>

Optional item (pending funds available):

1. Re-skin movable partitions:	\$42,160
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As part of this project, the City would, as required by the bequest, formally name and dedicate the Community Center area of the Novi Civic Center a "The Fuerst Senior Citizens Wing" and assure the improved area and equipment will be available for senior programming in the normal course as it is today.

The City Attorney's office has reviewed documentation regarding the Fuerst Donation Restricted Assets account and provided a separate opinion with more specifics on the language of the will and its limitations. Use of the Fuerst donation and accrued interest for the improvements and materials specified in the City staff's proposal would be within the contemplation of the settlement documents from the litigation, and would be permissible.

Pending Council approval, facility improvements would be scheduled to take place in September 2017.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approval to expend \$136,630.62 of the Fuerst Sisters fund to enhance the Novi Civic Center's Community Center and formally name the area "The Fuerst Senior Citizens Wing."