

# Council Agenda Item 26-0307R



**MEETING DATE:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**SUBJECT/TITLE:** Acceptance of Non-Monetary Gift – CODE 4 Community Engagement Vehicle

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kerry Cronin-Jones

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

## **BACKGROUND:**

In 2019, the Duluth Police Department repurposed a retired Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) bus into the CODE 4 Community Engagement Vehicle. While the initial vehicle was donated, it required substantial investment to become operational. Those improvements were fully funded through a federal grant and private donations, with no direct impact to the City’s general fund.

The vehicle was created to support two core functions: strengthening relationships between the Police Department and the community, and providing a practical on-site resource during extended events and incidents.

Since its launch, the CODE 4 vehicle has proven to be a highly effective and visible tool for community engagement. It has participated in hundreds of events, including school visits, job fairs, neighborhood gatherings, and regional conferences. It also provided critical support during community healing events—such as serving hot beverages at a vigil following a tragic homicide in the Hillside neighborhood—helping reinforce trust, accessibility, and presence.

The program’s popularity has grown steadily, and demand now exceeds the Department’s ability to respond to all requests—demonstrating clear community value and interest.

## **Current Condition and Need for Replacement:**

The existing vehicle is no longer a cost-effective asset. With approximately 182,000 miles and multiple major systems nearing failure, continued operation would require substantial investment. Estimated repairs include \$7,000–\$10,000 for transmission replacement and \$2,500–\$4,000 for rear axle work, in addition to ongoing suspension failures caused by obsolete parts. The vehicle also faces additional significant impending expenses related to air conditioning, tires, and other age-related structural issues.

Because of escalating cost and limited parts availability, continued maintenance of the current vehicle is not fiscally responsible. The Duluth Police Foundation has offered to donate a replacement vehicle so the community engagement program can continue.

The Police Foundation has graciously offered to donate a replacement vehicle so the community engagement program can continue.

**Budget/Fiscal Impact:**

This program is entirely funded by grants and donations. Without acceptance of the donated replacement vehicle, the program will cease due to the cost-prohibitive nature of required mechanical repairs.

**Options:**

1. Approve acceptance of the non-monetary gift.
2. Deny approval, resulting in discontinuation of the program.

**Necessary Action:**

Approve the resolution authorizing acceptance of the donated community engagement vehicle.



## Boo at the Zoo

## Kids Cops and Cars





## Spirit Valley Days

## Christmas City of the North

