

# MEMORANDUM

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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TO: Matthew Alexander, City Manager

FROM: Carol J. Samol – Director of Planning

DATE: January 5, 2026

RE: Esther Street Closure Extension

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On November 21, 2021 by Resolution J-7 the Common Council authorized the temporary closure of Esther Street to traffic in order to provide outdoor space for public pedestrian use. The Common Council subsequently renewed this closure for 2023, 2024, and 2025. The temporary closure expired on December 31, 2025 and requires an extension in order to continue functioning as it has been during the past year.

This closure has been beneficial to the City and is viewed as a positive amenity for the downtown and for the public. Staff recommends extending the temporary closure until December 31, 2026 in order to allow time to discuss the parameters for a possible permanent street closure.

At Common Council's direction, a resolution will be prepared for the January 12, 2026 Common Council meeting that authorizes an extension of the Esther Street closure until December 31, 2026. Please place this item on the January 5, 2026 Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion and direction.