



Office of Mayor Thomas P. McNamara

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Rockford Issues Update on Hanley Building Fire

ROCKFORD, Ill. – Mayor Tom McNamara provided an update on the Hanley Building this afternoon:

Much has happened in the nearly 100 hours since the Hanley Building caught fire and what follows is an update on the current steps being taken:

- On Sunday, more than 40 men and women from the Rockford Fire Department responded to the scene within minutes after receiving the call about the fire.
- They coordinated their response with staff from our Police Department, Public Works Department and Water Division, who all acted quickly and professionally to assist the firefighters in their work and to maintain public safety.
- Rotating shifts of firefighters were on scene into Wednesday to put out hot spots and protect the public.
- As we announced on Tuesday, we worked with building owner Justin Fern with Hanley Lofts LLC to determine if the structure could be saved. It was determined that a plan to repair and redevelop the structure is not financially feasible and work began toward demolishing the building.

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Hanley Building Update—Add One

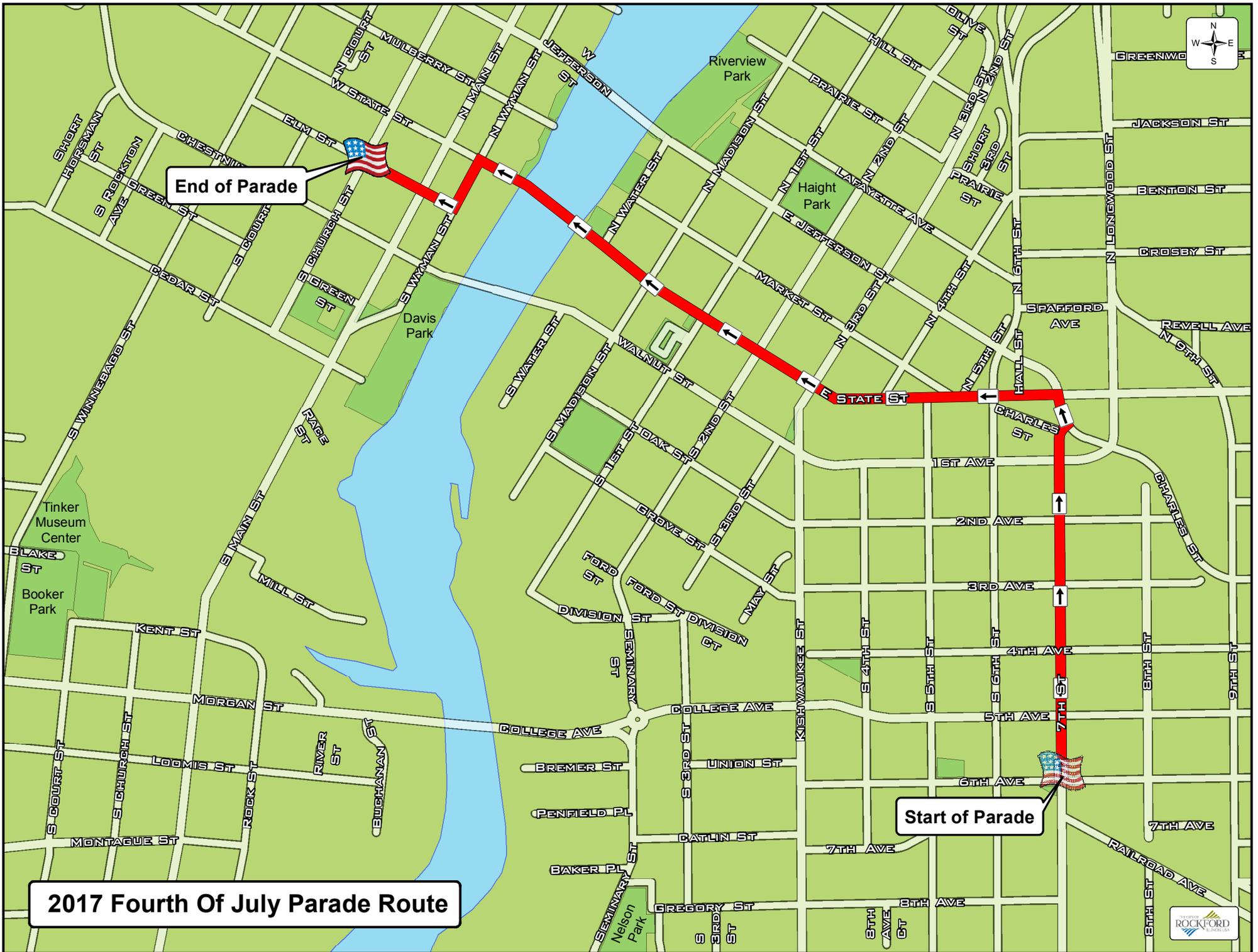
- The City signed a contract by 8 a.m. today with Northern Illinois Service Co., (NIS) of Rockford, for approximately \$500,000 to demolish the structure. A second estimate was obtained and was considerably higher—exceeding \$800,000.
- The City will seek repayment of these demolition costs from the building owner.
- Due to the location of the building, and the need to protect residents, workers adjacent buildings, building owners and tenants, NIS will take a number of steps around the structure. This will include:
 - Securing the roof of the adjacent building to the south with plywood and hay to protect it from debris.
 - Laying nearly a foot of crushed gravel on the recently-repaved roads around the Hanley Building to protect the pavement from the weight of trucks and falling debris.
 - Removing light poles around the perimeter and other related equipment.
- The City and NIS will work with the Hanley Building owner should the company wish to salvage the sign on the front of the building or any other materials prior to the demolition process beginning.
- NIS will be separating the building's bricks on site and removing them to an off-site location for recycling.
- Staging of the site has begun this afternoon and the NIS crew is expected to begin demolition early Friday morning. The crew will work throughout the weekend and, barring weather delays or other unforeseen circumstances, the demolition is expected to be complete by mid-day on Tuesday, July 4.
- The lot will be green space when the demolition is completed.
- Since the fire began on Sunday, the City has been in daily contact with the owner of the Hanley Building and the owner of building directly south of the Hanley.

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Hanley Building Update—Add two

- The Rockford Fire Department and the Illinois State Fire Marshal are working to determine the origin and cause of the fire.
- The Fourth of July Parade route will be altered due to the demolition and an updated map is enclosed.
- The Fourth of July Fireworks display will take place as planned.
- This afternoon, Thursday, June 29, a temporary restraining order (TRO) was filed in Winnebago County Court by Hanley Lofts, LLC, Urban Equity Properties and Justin Fern to stop the City from proceeding with the demolition. Attorneys from the City Legal Department and leaders from the Rockford Fire Department argued against the TRO in the interests of public safety and the need to reopen surrounding streets. Judge Eugene Doherty denied the request for the TRO and the demolition process will begin on Friday.
- This has been a complex incident with many moving parts and we appreciate the diligent work of all of those involved in the process.

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End of Parade

Start of Parade

2017 Fourth Of July Parade Route

