



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department

Date: 2/23/2012

To: Council Member Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole

Referral to: City Council

Subject: Community Connections Conference Report to the Community and acceptance of donations to the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department.

Recommendation:

- 1.) Receive and File the Community Connections Conference Report to the Community.
- 2.) Approve the acceptance of in-kind donations and financial contributions from sponsors for the 1st Annual Community Connections Conference – Building Better Communities through Neighborhoods. Donations were received from the following:
 - \$5,000 from Allina Hospitals and Clinics (direct contribution to the City).
 - \$4,650 from St. Mary's University Event Center for use of their space (in-kind donation).
 - \$3,000 from the McKnight Foundation to help cover travel expenses for Angela Glover Blackwell (Funding provided directly to PolicyLink). McKnight Foundation's support also recognizes the leverage of her visit – meeting with over 50 foundation representatives, the Mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul, a meeting with the Met Council, and a meeting with the Equity Now MN delegation.

Previous Directives: none

Department Information

Prepared by: David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director

Approved by: Jayne Khalifa, Interim City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director
Carrie Day Aspinwall, Neighborhood Support Specialist, NCR.

Financial Impact

In-kind donations will cover the cost of Event Center, Keynote Speaker and technical support from PolicyLink.

The \$5,000 donation from Allina Hospitals and Clinics will off-set the costs of the conference.

Community Impact:

The Community Connections Conference was focused realizing the City Goal of **Many People, One Minneapolis**. The conference was a key step in exploring how the City's key partners – neighborhood and community organizations – can help us achieve the goal.

The conference was specifically designed for neighborhood organizations, cultural communities, nonprofit organizations, City departments and residents to share best practices of neighborhood engagement. In addition, participants in the "One Minneapolis Conference (Civil Rights) and the equity delegation (Equity Summit), electeds (City Council, Park Board, School Board and Hennepin County) were also invited.

The Community Connections Conference delivered a professional forum that provided best practices, opened new opportunities and began to help redefine the vision for our city's neighborhoods. The conference not only provided the tools and strategies to increase participation and diversity within our neighborhood organizations, but provided a positive forum that supported our volunteers and brought in new participation.

Supporting Information:

In accordance with the City of Minneapolis Ethics in Government code (2007-Or-066, §2, 8-31-07) and its Gifts to the City Policy (adopted August 19, 2005) the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department respectfully requests to accept and expend gifts to pay for expenses incurred for the Community Connections Conference - Building Better Communities Through Neighborhoods.

2012 Conference Theme: The theme of the 2012 conference is building diversity and increasing participation in neighborhood organizations. The City has a five-year vision of realizing the City goal of **Many People, One Minneapolis**. The conference is a key step in exploring how the City's key partners – neighborhoods and community organizations – can help us get there.

Objectives of 2012 Conference:

1. Building a broader understanding of the equity within our neighborhood organizations so they can be part of the solution to erase racial disparities in our city.
2. Building the capacity of neighborhoods by providing the tools and strategies and building supportive networks with other community partners to achieve greater inclusion and diversity.
3. Providing networking opportunities for neighborhoods to connect with City departments, cultural and community organizations working on the same or similar goals.
4. Providing other basic tools for successful operations for neighborhood organizations.
5. Providing follow up to continue this work after the conference (the conference is just one component to achieve these objectives).

Keynote Speaker: **Angela Glover Blackwell**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, founded PolicyLink in 1999 and continues to drive its mission of advancing economic and social equity. Under Blackwell's leadership, PolicyLink has become a leading voice in the movement to use public policy to improve access and opportunity for all low-income people and communities of color, particularly in the areas of health, housing, transportation, education, and infrastructure.

Attendance: A total of 430 participants attended the conference. Of the 430 participants, 306 (85%) resided in the City of Minneapolis. Of the participants identifying their neighborhood when registering, 72% or 63 of the 87 neighborhoods in the city were represented at the conference.

City Department Engagement: 4 City departments presented a workshop and 9 City departments hosted an information table at the conference. In total there were over 50 City employees who were in attendance, including elected officials.

Total Conference Expenditures:

\$38,674.71

Total Revenue Raised:

\$14,750.00

Cost of Conference to the City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood and Community Relations Department:

\$23,924.71

Revenues Raised Include the Following:

- \$5,000 from Allina Hospitals and Clinics
- \$4,650 from St. Mary's University Event Center for use of their space (in-kind donation).
- \$3,000 from the McKnight Foundation to help cover travel expenses for Angela Glover Blackwell. Their support also recognizes the leverage of her visit – meeting with over 50 foundation representatives, the Mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul, a meeting with the Met Council, and a meeting with the Equity Now MN delegation.
- \$2,100 from 30 organizations reserved and paid for an Information Table.