



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Date: June 14, 2012

To: Council Vice President Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole

Referral to: City Council

Subject: One Year Report on Rebuilding Our Communities Fund

Recommendation: Receive and File

Previous Directives:

On July 17, 2011, the City Council approved the creation of the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 over two years to be administered by the NCR Department. The 2011 General Appropriation Resolution was further amended to increase appropriations by \$300,000 for the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund, with remaining funds to be appropriated in future years.

The July 17, 2011 approval committed \$60,000 of the first year's \$300,000 appropriation to existing neighborhood contracts. On November 18, 2011, the City Council approved use of the remaining \$240,000 for an emergency rehab support program, as recommended by the neighborhood organizations, for immediate repair of owner-occupied housing that was not being served by other housing programs, thus committing the full \$300,000 of the first year appropriation.

On March 8, 2012, The City Council approved an additional \$196,258.72 for 2012, and up to \$103,741.28 of 2013 interest earnings on the existing fund balance of fund 01SNR to fully fund the original request for \$600,000 for the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund.

Department Information

Prepared by: Robert Thompson, Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Approved by:

David Rubedor, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations _____

Paul Aasen, City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: David Rubedor, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations
Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Specialist, NCR

Financial Impact

No financial impact to the 2012 City Budget.

Community Impact

Recognizing a long-term community-based recovery is essential for a vibrant community, the City Council established ROC fund in July 2011 for the purpose of building the capacity for a north Minneapolis community-led mid- and long-term recovery and rebuilding process addressing the devastating effects of the May 22nd tornado. The fund builds upon existing assets to create new opportunities for this area. The fund utilizes and supports a collaboration of north Minneapolis neighborhood organizations to organize and coordinate the effort.

The following neighborhoods are eligible for the fund:

- Willard Hay
- Jordan
- Folwell
- Webber Camden
- McKinley
- Harrison

The tornado went through one of our most diverse and economically challenged areas of the city. The recovery effort and the rebuilding process require involvement and inclusion of low-income individuals, renters, communities of color, businesses, and other stakeholders. The fund builds the capacity of neighborhood organizations for broader engagement, utilizing and engaging existing community assets and support networks, and capturing the momentum to reshape the future of their communities.

The fund supports efforts of neighborhood organizations in the following program areas:

- ***Visioning, Planning, Assessment and Implementation:*** the Northside Neighborhoods Council is responsible for mid- and long-term recovery and building a vision for this community. This includes working with the City and other partners to implement those plans. The collaboration also helps to hold neighborhood partners, as well as federal, state, and local agencies accountable for recovery work.
- ***Capacity Building:*** Increase the capacity of the Northside Neighborhoods Council and participating neighborhood organizations to work effectively on relief efforts and responding to community needs.
- ***Racial and Socio-Economic Collaboration and Participation:*** Funds support increased involvement of communities of color, renters, low-income individuals and other community support networks in tornado relief activities.
- ***Advocacy for the Community:*** the Northside Neighborhoods Council advocates on behalf of the community to federal, state and local authorities to ensure adequate and ongoing resources to support long-term recovery work.
- ***Coordination:*** The Northside Neighborhoods Council plays a vital role in coordination of fundraising, services delivery, planning, outreach, education, information, event planning and resource identification and development.
- ***Communication:*** The Northside Neighborhoods Council and eligible neighborhood organizations play a central role in providing ongoing communication and education for the community. Partnering neighborhood organizations serve as individual clearinghouses of information and be the collective voice for home owners, renters, businesses, communities of color, faith organizations, housing developers and other community organizations.

One Year Report

It has now been one year since the ROC fund was established and this effort was undertaken. The north Minneapolis neighborhoods, supported by Neighborhood and Community Relations staff, have made significant progress in their work. The Northside Neighborhoods Council (NNC) has been meeting, supported by NCR staff, weekly for the past 11 months. The NNC has focused their work on developing a collective approach to north Minneapolis, broader engagement of north Minneapolis residents, addressing some immediate housing needs and now embarking on a community-wide, common vision called North First. The NNC, originally started as the 6 neighborhoods eligible for the ROC fund has now expanded to include 9 north Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Listed below are the one-year accomplishments and status of the activities supported by the ROC fund:

1. Rehab Support Program Emergency Relief Fund: \$240,000 of ROC funds were dedicated to emergency housing repairs. The creation of the fund followed a meeting of neighborhood organizations with a number of housing vendors in North Minneapolis. Working collaboratively, participants that many north Minneapolis homeowners were falling through gaps in existing relief programs. Neighborhood organizations requested that \$240,000 of ROC funds be used for an emergency relief fund to fill this gap. NCR worked with CPED staff to develop the Emergency Relief Fund, managed by GMHC for repair work managed by Urban Homeworks, Habitat for Humanity, and others.

Mark Anderson of CPED provided the following update on the use of these funds:

Loan Pool	\$240,000
Loans closed to date	20
Applications pending closing	1
Total dollar amount of project cost	\$138,159.29
Total dollar amount of funds reserved	\$1,231.96
Total dollar amount of loans closed	\$128,833.27
Program funds remaining in pool (Uncommitted funds)	\$109,934.77

Jill Kiener of the Northside Home Fund added that "this program has accounted for 1/3 of all roof repairs that have been completed with city, state and non-profit resources. It has been a much needed and effective tool for helping north Minneapolis residents rebuild."

Housing vendors working on repairs since last year report that there are still a number of homes in need of gap assistance for a variety of repairs: roofing and siding, concrete, fences, gutters and soffits, patio doors, and tree and stump removal. NCR is working with neighborhood organizations to determine if there should be changes to the current scope of the Emergency Relief Fund, which is currently limited to roofs, soffits and gutters.

2. Immediate Neighborhood Support: \$60,000 of the original \$300,000 was contracted to the six neighborhood organizations in the area impacted by the May 22 tornado. The Funding supported the following work:
 - A multi-neighborhood cleanup effort involving more than 400 volunteers over the weekends of June 18 and June 25, 2011 from four parks.
 - Additional outreach and door-knocking work. Neighborhood organizations worked with other agencies involved in recovery efforts to develop and distribute literature through direct outreach and electronic communication.
 - Ability to meet with and participate in the Northside Community Recovery Team and collaborate more closely with tornado relief efforts.

3. Northside Neighborhood Council and North First: The funding for individual neighborhood organizations has also provided support for ongoing weekly meetings of North Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, leading to more coordinated efforts and establishing a first-stop for City and other agency staff to coordinate outreach and feedback from neighborhoods.

The partnership of neighborhoods through a set of agreed-upon principles is called the Northside Neighborhoods Council (NNC). Early meetings of this group led to the development of the Emergency Relief Fund, and later the North First initiative. Eleven of the twelve North Minneapolis neighborhood organizations have participated in recent meetings of the NNC.

North First is an initiative of the Northside Neighborhoods Council to develop a common vision for a successful, sustainable and equitable North Minneapolis. North First has several related goals:

- Develop a common vision for North Minneapolis neighborhood organizations and other partners. The vision will be based on the NNC
- Through the process of developing the common vision, establish ongoing relationships and shared knowledge between residents, neighborhood organizations, and partners.
- Form partnerships to sustain and implement the vision.