



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Civil Rights

Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012

To: Council Member Don Samuels, Chair
Public Safety, Civil Rights, & Health Committee

Referral to: The Public Safety, Civil Rights, & Health Committee to refer to the Ways & Means/ Budget Committee and lastly to the full City Council.

Subject: The allocation of funds for the Director's charges

Recommendation: 1. The Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights respectfully requests that the City Council reappropriate the \$3500 civil penalty paid to the general fund for the resolution of the Director's charges to the Department. The funds will be used for the specific purpose of developing fair housing posters. 2. Increase both the revenue estimate in fund/department 01600-3000200 (revenue code 375504) and the 2012 appropriation in fund/department 01600-3000200 by \$3,500.

Department Information

Prepared by: Lee L. Zutz, Administrative Analyst II (612) 673-2091 Approved by: Velma J. Korb, Director (612) 673-3027 <i>Velma J. Korb</i> Presenter in Committee: Michael K. Browne, Assistant Director (612) 673-2426

Financial Impact:

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.

Dept Name: Civil Rights

Fund Name: State/Other Funds 01600 3000200

Amount: \$3500

Supporting Information:

Director Velma J. Korb, as the complainant, filed a charge of discrimination against Mr. Roder (Respondent), President of Sabre Enterprises, Inc., and Sabre Asset Management, LLC. The preliminary investigation found that Mr. Roder did not accept public assistance funds for move-in costs, specifically stating on the rental applications, "HENNEPIN COUNTY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IS NOT ACCEPTED FOR MOVE IN COSTS."

The case was resolved through voluntary mediation. The Respondent admitted to the violation and agreed to the following: (1) remove the emergency assistance clause from the application; (2) pay a civil penalty; (3) review and revise its policies; (4) provide training for all employees, including the property manager regarding the policy of accepting Hennepin County Emergency Assistance (HCEA) vouchers; and (5) hang fair housing posters in a clearly visible location in the room in which all rental business occurs. Currently, the Department does not have fair housing posters available; therefore, the Department requests that the civil penalty paid by the Respondent is used to create and produce posters, as these civil penalties should be invested in the promotion of fair housing practices.