



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

**Date:** October 6, 2014  
**To:** Cam Gordon, Chair of Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee  
**Referral to:** Ways and Means Committee  
**Subject:** **Allocation of \$13,000 of Hennepin County NRP funds for the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood / Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA)**

**Recommendation:**

Approve the use of \$13,000 of Hennepin County's "Second 7.5%" NRP funds to address homelessness in the downtown community for the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood/Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA).

Amend the 2014 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) agency Fund 01CNR 8450-200 (the NRP Fund) by \$13,000.00 from existing fund balance.

Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request.

**Previous Directives:**

On July 14, 2014 the Hennepin County Board approved the allocation of \$13,000 of Hennepin County NRP Funds to the Downtown Minneapolis neighborhood.

On September 16, 2014 the NRP Policy board approved the allocation of \$13,000 of Hennepin County NRP Funds to the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood and approved transmittal of the plan the Minneapolis City Council for approval.

**Department Information**

Prepared by: Carrie Day Aspinwall, Neighborhood Support Specialist
Approved by: David Rubedor, Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations _____ Spencer Cronk, City Coordinator _____
Presenter in Committee: Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Manager, x2523

**Financial Impact**

The funding of the Hennepin County NRP Funds is available within the NRP Fund balance.

The Hennepin County NRP Funds are not subject to staff direction set out in footnote "p" (as amended) of the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution adopted by the Council on December 13, 2010.

This action is within the NCR Business Plan

Request has been provided to the Finance Department

### **Community Impact**

This strategy is part of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood NRP Phase II action plan. The neighborhood undertook a significant community engagement process in the development of this Phase II plan. The neighborhood is working with NCR on the plan and allocation of dollars.

**City Goals** - This action is consistent with the City Goals: **Equity:** Disparities are nonexistent and all people have opportunities for success **Engaging the community:** All have a voice and are heard. **Connectedness:** People are connected with their community, are connected to all parts of the city and can influence government. **Health:** We are focused on the well-being of people and our environment.

### **Supporting Information**

The State NRP Law (469.1831, subdivision 4) required 7.5% of the "Program Money" to be provided to Hennepin County for social services. The County began authorizing expenditures from that fund in 1992. On October 3, 1995, the County Board passed guidelines for the allocation of the remaining amount in that fund. This allocation methodology was not mandated by State Law. Rather, it was the process adopted by the Hennepin County Board to govern its allocation of the NRP funds.

The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA) is working in partnership with the Minneapolis Downtown Council, the Downtown Improvement District and the Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness to address homelessness in the downtown community. DMNA has allocated \$47,000 of its NRP funds, to be supplemented by \$13,000 of County NRP funds, to allow St. Stephen's Human Services to increase the number of its street outreach workers. Street outreach workers have been effective in reducing homelessness among veterans and people experiencing long-term homelessness; they connect closely with staff in the housing programs administered by St. Stephen's and other support service organizations. The Downtown Council and the Office to End Homelessness expect that the DMNA funds will help leverage additional private resources in support of hiring additional street outreach workers.

St. Stephen's Human Services plans to use the funds in the following manner:

- Hire a full time Street Outreach Worker to coordinate outreach initiative in partnership with the City of Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, Hennepin County Community Corrections and the City-County Heading Home Hennepin Plan.
- Build and maintain trust with clients by ensuring that all their basic needs are satisfied.
- Educate the public on the issue of homelessness while targeting identified areas of Minneapolis and individuals living with mental and chemical health concerns who are frequent users of police time.
- Coordinate services with staff in the housing programs at St. Stephen's Human Services and other service providers to help individuals who are in the homeless community.