

City of Minneapolis Request for Committee Action

To: Community Development & Regulatory Services
Date: 7/12/2016
Referral: Ways & Means
From: Community Planning & Economic Development
Lead Staff: Jim Terrell
Presented by: Jim Terrell
File Type: Resolution
Subcategory: Donation/Gift Acceptance

Subject:

Acceptance of donations from National League of Cities to cover travel expenses for City staff to participate in the Equitable Economic Development Fellowship

Description:

Passage of Resolution accepting donations from National League of Cities to cover travel expenses for City staff to participate in the Equitable Economic Development Fellowship

Previous Actions:

None

Ward/Address:

All Wards

Background/Analysis:

The Equitable Economic Development Fellowship is an innovative new program being led by three national non-profit organizations: National League of Cities, PolicyLink, and Urban Land Institute, with support from the Surdna Foundation and the Open Society Foundation. The program is designed to assist the six (6) participating cities by influencing economic development policies and practices that promote equity, transparency, sustainability, and community engagement. The fellowship program will convene economic development leaders from the selected cities for an annual program of leadership development, technical assistance, peer learning and team reflection.

According to the National League of Cities (NLC), states and localities spend \$50 to \$80 billion on tax breaks and incentives each year under the banner of economic development. NLC further notes that very often these traditional tax breaks, incentives and related programs have not benefitted all segments of the population, and in many cases have short-changed people of color, immigrants, and low-income communities. The Fellowship aims to assist cities in finding more inclusive ways to invest public dollars.

The City of Minneapolis, through an invitation sent to Mayor Betsy Hodges, was invited, along with five other cities into the fellowship in 2016. The National League of Cities, along with its partners, has offered to donate funds to sponsor the travel and lodging expenses of the CPED Executive Director, Director of Economic Policy & Development and a Senior Project Coordinator to participate in this unique and innovative program.

This type of peer learning is an important strategy to enhance CPED's mission to grow a vibrant, livable, and safely built city for everyone.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Attachments:

1. Resolution accepting donations to cover travel expenses for City staff to participate in the Equitable Economic Development Fellowship