



**Minneapolis**  
*City of Lakes*

**Office of the Mayor**

**R. T. Rybak**  
Mayor

350 South Fifth Street - Room 331  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1393

Office 612 673-2100  
Fax 612 673-2305  
TTY 612 673-3187

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The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for recently declaring a Presidential Disaster (FEMA-1990-DR) Declaration for Public Assistance for the severe storms and tornadoes for May 21 and May 22 in the Minnesota Counties of Hennepin and Anoka. I am specifically requesting to have the recent Presidential Disaster Declaration include Individual Assistance for Hennepin County, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Crisis Counseling, and Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Small Business Administration disaster loans for the County of Hennepin.

There is a high percentage of rental property, multiple-family homes, and subsidized (Section 8) housing in this high-poverty area. Many single family homes had large, extended families living together, who have limited alternatives for housing. Although landlords are required to have property insurance, most of the renters were not insured. Additional economic hardship will be borne by homeowners who have insurance with high deductibles. Of the 3789 affected properties, 1006 are damaged rental properties.

In addition, the City of Minneapolis experienced many vehicles crushed by trees on the street or in collapsed garages, creating additional hardship for those needing to get to work, school, or medical appointments. Some without alternate shelter or wishing to protect property in uninhabitable structures are living in their cars or using them for storage.

As Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton has stated in his letter to you, many city and community groups are identifying available services and funds for assisting the impacted families and individuals. The financial impacts experienced as a result of this unprecedented disaster have placed severe hardships on the community and its residents and businesses. Local resources, however, are not nearly sufficient to cover all costs from an event of this magnitude.

Attached is a map showing some of the neighborhoods within the path of the tornado that have the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the City of Minneapolis.

Thank you for your consideration to authorize Individual Assistance in addition to the current Presidential Disaster Declaration (DR1990). It is crucial to the futures of the recent victims of north Minneapolis impacted by this devastating tornado.

Sincerely,

R.T. Rybak  
Mayor