



Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinator

Date: May 4, 2006

To: Council Member Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways & Means/Budget Committee

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Approved by: Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator, 673-3161

Subject: Update on City Council Resolution 2006R-094, adopted on February 24, 2006, titled Organizational Capacity for Community Engagement

Recommendation: Approve the recommended plan and time line, as described on page two

Previous Directives: On February 24, 2006, the Minneapolis City Council adopted the resolution referenced above directing the City Coordinator to plan a process to identify: a) the specific, ongoing community-engagement needs of local-government entities and community stakeholders; b) the level and type of government and stakeholder organizational capacity required to support such community engagement; and c) the resources required to support that level and type of organizational capacity on an ongoing basis. This recommendation is in response to that previous directive.

Financial Impact: (check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget or Operating Budget.
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves.
- Business Plan: Action is within the plan. Action requires a change to plan.
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact: (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification:

City Goals: addresses City Goal to "enhance community engagement"

Comprehensive Plan:

Zoning Code:

Other:

Background / Supporting Information:

In 2004, the City Council gave the Communications Department responsibility for coordinating the City's community engagement activities, and directed the City Coordinator to create a position dedicated to coordinating these efforts. In November 2005, the Communications Department introduced a newly developed Community Engagement Process Model to standardize engagement practices and help all departments better involve the community around pending City decisions. The department also hired a Community Engagement Coordinator to train departments in the use of the new model and its application to specific projects and activities. The first round of training will be completed at the end of May.

In February of 2006, the City Council passed another resolution on community engagement, which is referenced on the previous page. This action reflects the Council's concern that some current sources of funding for community engagement activities – specifically the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) – are declining, making it important for the City to evaluate its current community engagement structure and plan for the future. It also reflects the updated vision, goals and values of the City Council and Mayor, which emphasize the importance of providing fair, open and transparent decision-making processes that empower residents and ensure public accountability.

The February 2006 resolution directed the City Coordinator to consult with the City's governmental partners and with representatives of major stakeholder groups and to return to the committee with a plan and time line to address these concerns. Upon review of the very large quantity of previous feedback – resulting in numerous recent reports and recommendations – on the subject of community engagement, the City Coordinator worked with staff to develop the following plan and time line.

Recommended Plan and Time Line:

Establish a staff task force, under the direction of the City Coordinator, to complete the following tasks and report back to the Ways and Means / Budget Committee of the City Council at or before its regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2006.

- Review previously documented feedback on the effectiveness of City of Minneapolis community engagement activities, including the 2001, 2003 and 2005 City of Minneapolis Resident Surveys; Focus Minneapolis interviews, public review and comment; NRP evaluations, etc.
- Review previous reports and recommendations on community engagement in Minneapolis, including: Focus Minneapolis / McKinsey (2002), Community Engagement Staff Work Group (2003), Community Summit / Center for Neighborhoods (2003), Minneapolis Community Engagement Project / Community Leader Report (2004), Minneapolis Civic Engagement: Immigrant and Refugee Community Input (2004), and Minneapolis Community Engagement Project / Quantum Change Report (2005).
- Review selected local and national community engagement structures and best practices.
- Interview the City's governmental partners and representatives of major stakeholder groups.
- Summarize findings and draft process and outcome recommendations for City Council.