

**RESOLUTION 2007R**  
**By Benson and Hodges**

**Supporting Minneapolis as a Workforce Service Area.**

Whereas, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development intends to consider the issue of Workforce Service Area geographic designation over the summer of 2007; and

Whereas, the Legislative Auditor also conducted a study of the Workforce System in February 2005 and made no suggestion that boundaries should be changed; and

Whereas, the Governor's Workforce Development Council concluded in a study in February 2004 that there was no reason to re-draw the workforce service area geographic boundaries at that time; and,

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP), as a Workforce Service Area, receives and administers funds from federal and state sources; and

Whereas, METP uses this government funding to leverage additional dollars from other sources to target the City's highest priority employment and training challenges to create programs such as Close-the-Gap that successfully closed the unemployment rate gap between Minneapolis and the surrounding metro area; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has a unique service delivery structure that is designed to identify and respond to the unique needs of the City's diverse population which also has higher concentrations of poverty and limited English proficiency than surrounding areas; and

Whereas, METP runs outcome-based programs that have had outstanding effectiveness and efficiency in comparison with similar programs nationwide; and

Whereas, a local approach to employment and training in Minneapolis allows the City to be flexible and most responsive to resident and employer workforce needs; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Private Industry Council/Workforce Council already actively participates in the Metropolitan Workforce Council to coordinate and collaborate on important regional initiatives; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis Private Industry Council/Workforce Council has successfully recruited influential local business leaders to serve on the board, whose leadership enhances business participation for the entire workforce development system in the region; therefore

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis

That the City of Minneapolis expresses strong support for maintaining the City of Minneapolis' status as a Workforce Service Area in order to best meet the job training needs of the residents and businesses in Minneapolis; and

Be It Further Resolved that the City expresses concern that redrawing workforce service area boundaries would detract from the good work that local workforce investment boards are currently achieving in collaboration with their local partners.