



Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development

Date: July 11, 2007

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

Subject: Authorize \$300,000.00 of federal Empowerment Zone funds to KMOJ Radio/ Center for Communication and Development for the redevelopment of the "Delisi" Building located at 2119 West Broadway.

Presenter in Committee: Jonathan Palmer, Director, Minneapolis Empowerment Zone (612) 673-5016

Approved by: Charles T. Lutz, Deputy Director, Community Planning and Economic Development _____

RECOMMENDATION

The Empowerment Zone Governance Board recommends a grant of \$300,000 to KMOJ Radio/Center for Communication and Development for redevelopment of space at 2119 West Broadway.

Previous Directives

N/A

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Background/Supporting Information

The Ackerberg Group is the Lead Developer in the complete renovation of the existing "Delisi" building and will tenant the property with key businesses and organizations to renew the vitality of the West Broadway and Penn intersection.

Part of their mission is to work with local non-profit organizations to help them realize their goals of property ownership. The arrangement was done at the 1101 West Broadway site where our investment allowed Pillsbury United Communities to become an equity investor in the project. They are assembling a similar private/non-profit partnership with KMOJ Radio/Center for Communication and Development.

Project Details

The authorization of \$300,000 for KMOJ Radio/Center for Communication and Development will ensure KMOJ's portion of the development and equity investment.

Community Impact

KMOJ exists to develop and support the empowerment of the Black community through the power of mass communication by 1) providing information and education not offered through mainstream media outlets, and 2) teaching members of the Black community responsible journalism and media skills that offer professional experiences and increase the numbers of Black people employed in the media industry.

Over the years, KMOJ has transitioned from the Heart and Soul of the Community to the People's Station and from a 50 watt station to a 1,000 watt station, and growing. KMOJ maintains two key areas: Training in Broadcast Management and Administration & On-Air Programming. KMOJ achieves goals in these two program areas through civic and community engagement, positive entertainment, and community education activities.