



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Civil Rights**

**Date:** June 19, 2006

**To:** Council Member Scott Benson, Chair  
Health, Energy & Environment Committee

**Subject:** Executing a Joint Powers Agreement with Hennepin County and Saint Paul to continue a joint certification program for small businesses and those owned by women or minority citizens.

**Recommendation:**

1. It is recommended that proper City Officers be authorized to execute an agreement with Hennepin County and the City of Saint Paul allowing the City of Minneapolis to continue as a member of the CERT joint certification program.
2. It is further recommended that staff be directed to continue to investigate and negotiate additional partnerships and joint programming ventures, including the development of a multi-jurisdictional disparity study.

**Previous Directives:**

- In December of 2005 Council authorized the continuation of the City's Small & Underutilized Business Program

**Prepared/Submitted by:** Marvin D. Taylor, Contract Compliance Officer 612-673-2086

Approved by:

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Michael K. Browne  
Interim Director of Civil Rights

**Presenter in Committee:** Marvin Taylor and Michael Browne

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget  
If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact (use any categories that apply)**

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

**Background/Supporting Information**

Many metropolitan jurisdictions have programs to identify and assist small and disadvantaged businesses. Businesses must be certified as legitimately owned and controlled by targeted groups. Most of the businesses that we attempt to help are the same across jurisdictional lines. As a result of the efforts and leadership of the City of Minneapolis, the CERT Program was established in 1998 as a multi-jurisdictional certification program.

The CERT Program has been very successful for a number of reasons. The joint program limits the amount of time businesses and public staffs need to process applications. It provides the city with a multi-functional data base of certified businesses. When it was created, the program cut the City's certification cost by eighty (80) percent.