

Request for City Council Committee Action

Date: February 15, 2011

To: Community Development Committee
Referral to: Ways & Means / Budget Committee

Prepared by: Carsten Slostad (Phone 673-5150)

Approved by: Robert D. Miller, Director _____

Subject: Downtown Minneapolis NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

Summary of the Request:

The Downtown Minneapolis (DMNA) neighborhood has completed their NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan. It has been reviewed by staff and external counsel and adopted by the NRP Policy Board. Final approval and funding is now being requested.

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Downtown Minneapolis NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, in an amount not to exceed \$913,167;
2. Amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) agency Fund 01 CNR 8900-800 (the NRP fund) by \$913,167 from existing fund balance;
3. Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request

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The Honorable Lisa Goodman, Chair
Community Development Committee
Minneapolis City Council
315 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

The Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Minneapolis City Council
315 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Re: Downtown Minneapolis NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

Dear Chairpersons Goodman and Hodges:

At its meeting on January 24, 2011 the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board approved the Downtown Minneapolis (DMNA) NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and authorized \$913,167 in NRP Program Funds to implement this plan.

The Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan allocates \$913,167 in the following manner:

Housing	\$639,216.90
Arts, Culture and Education	\$ 15,000.00
Crime and Safety	\$ 75,000.00
Downtown Development	\$103,950.10
Implementation	\$ 80,000.00

The completion of this NRP Phase II Plan for Downtown Minneapolis comes at a time when the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA) is in a position to take advantage of emerging opportunities for improvements to the Downtown area. The plan enables DMNA to build on relationships with the non-profit housing providers in Downtown and foster new relationships with Downtown condominium owners. An important emphasis in the housing section of this plan is to work toward reducing homelessness. The Plan provides resources for the new planetarium at the Central Library. Partnerships with the Minneapolis Police Department and other collaboratives addressing neighborhood livability and visitor perception will continue in the plan. The plan provides funding to encourage the use of transportation alternatives that reduce automobile use in Downtown and to improve pedestrian access with an emphasis on improving accessibility for people with physical challenges. Expanding and improving green space in Downtown is also a focus in this plan.

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DMNA began its Phase II planning in June 2008 by partnering with the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) to complete a review of the Phase I NRP Plan. The intern provided by CURA conducted interviews with 6 prominent community members as well as NRP staff person Barb Lickness. In addition, 12 members of community organizations that have benefited from past NRP funding were interviewed. The intern facilitated two focus groups in the neighborhood. One focus group looked at the past, the other toward the future. The intern worked with the neighborhood coordinator to develop a survey that was distributed throughout the neighborhood in a variety of ways.

The results of the interviews, focus groups and survey helped the DMNA Board of Directors to determine how the NRP funds would be used in the NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan. The draft plan was distributed to the neighborhood in the summer of 2010 for review. The neighborhood voted on the final NRP Neighborhood Action Plan at its Annual Meeting on December 14, 2010.

On January 24, 2011 the Policy Board passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) established the Phase II allocation available for the Downtown Minneapolis neighborhoods at \$913,167 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The Downtown Minneapolis neighborhoods have conducted an inclusive Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted Downtown Minneapolis NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$913,167 and dedicates at least seventy percent (70%) of that allocation to housing programs, projects, services and activities,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) hereby accepts and adopts the Downtown Minneapolis Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan,

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RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board hereby authorizes the Director to request that the City Council and Mayor [a] approve the Downtown Minneapolis NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of \$913,167; [b] amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$913,167 from existing fund balance for implementation of the approved Plan; and [c] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.

Pursuant to this resolution, I make the following recommendations for consideration by your committees:

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Downtown Minneapolis NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, in an amount not to exceed \$913,167;
2. Amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) agency Fund 01 CNR 8900-800 (the NRP fund) by \$913,167 from existing fund balance;
3. Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request

Sincerely,

Robert D. Miller
Director