



Request for City Council Committee Action

From the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development

Date July 10, 2007

To Council Member Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Council Member Lisa Goodman, Chair, Community Development Committee

Subject Authorization to approve \$125,000 from the federal Empowerment Zone grant to execute a contract with NorthWay Community Trust to administer the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON).

Recommendation

- (1) Approve the Empowerment Zone Governance Board Executive Committee recommendation payable from 0300-890-8942; and
- (2) Authorize the proper city officers to execute contract with NorthWay Community Trust setting forth the terms and conditions of administering federal Empowerment Zone funds.

Submitted by/
Presenter in committee Jonathan Palmer, Director, Empowerment Zone, 673-5016

Approved by Chuck Lutz, Deputy Director, Community Planning and Economic Development _____

Permanent Review Committee (PRC) Approval Not Applicable

Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval Not Applicable

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information

On June 14, 2007 the Empowerment Zone (EZ) Governance Board Executive Committee approved a grant of \$125,000 for the "Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON)", which will be administered by NorthWay Community Trust.

The purpose of the NEON is to deliver entrepreneur training, loan packaging and business technical assistance for North Minneapolis. NEON will promote collaborative relationships among several organizations to recruit and train neighborhood residents to become entrepreneurs, facilitate financing, location of businesses and other business assistance support. The program aims to create a significant number of new resident-owned and operated businesses, many of which will be on West Broadway and other commercial corridors on the Northside. Anchored by the Neighborhood Development Center, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, and NorthWay Community Trust, the NEON partnership includes: Pillsbury United Communities; Pieces, Inc. dba Renaissance Business Center; West Broadway Area Coalition; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; and the Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers. NEON's proposal to the Empowerment Zone is attached.