



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

Date: March 31, 2003

To: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subject: APPROVAL: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN URBAN INDIAN DIRECTORS AND THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Recommendation

Authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Minneapolis to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) on behalf of the American Indian Community. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a working partnership between MUID and the elected officials of the City of Minneapolis. The partnership will promote constructive dialogue, establish action steps and an agreement to measure and evaluate the results of these efforts.

Previous Directives

On October 17, 2002, the HHS committee directed staff to undertake work on the proposed MOU to get it in a final form for further Council review and approval.

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
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Approved by:

David S. Doth, Commissioner of Health & Family Support

Presenters in Committee: David Doth, Commissioner of Health & Family Support
Tony Looking Elk, Co-Chair Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

Background/Supporting Information Attached:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

*Between the
Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors
On behalf of the American Indian Community
&
The Honorable Mayor R.T. Rybak and The Minneapolis City Council*

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby entered into by the entities that have the responsibility to support and serve the American Indian community. The MOU is hereinafter referred to as the “American Indian Community” MOU.

A. PURPOSE

The MOU promotes a sense of urgency and promise to develop reciprocal paths of participation and success. It further establishes a working partnership of dialogue, action and measurable results between the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID Group) and the Mayor and City Council of Minneapolis. This MOU provides for:

- **Knowledge:** A community-government process of building knowledge through dialogue to better understand the integration of American Indian community thoughts, values and culture into the planning, development and stewardship of the city of Minneapolis.
- **Action:** A commitment to create community indicators with specific goals and objectives, from the knowledge gained, leading toward responsible actions in developing the American Indian community as a cultural, participatory and self-sufficient community.
- **Results:** Agreement to evaluate the efforts of the city and other stakeholders under this effort as it relates to the priorities developed by the American Indian community. .

B. BACKGROUND

The American Indian community has celebrated many successes from individuals, families, organizations and community. History and culture has provided tremendous examples of thoughts, actions and deeds that have served our community progress and place in this world. However, in today’s integrated society, the lack of acceptance of our worldview and collective action has created tremendous disparities in statistics and societal factors that inhibit success, participation and opportunity necessary for community development and responsibility.

Several factors require innovation and invention to engage the American Indian community. American Indians define community as a cultural space and not the

generally accepted geographic definition. This has sometimes lead to an inability to build broad support with elected officials whose responsibility is otherwise limited to political boundaries. Further, American Indians are represented through a government to government relationship with our Federal and State Government. However, the customary consultation and intergovernmental efforts created for American Indians usually relate only to tribes and reservations and not the entire population especially those in urban areas. This lack of political engagement and institutional knowledge has challenged the MUID group to come forward with this respectful offer to partner with the City of Minneapolis.

The MUID Group has been serving the Twin Cities American Indian community as a gathering of leadership to discuss and inform the community of organizational and community issues for the past two decades. The focus and necessary change of this group has been one of communal support to community advocacy. The current MUID Group roster comprise of over fifty different organizations, programs and partners to the American Indian community. Our current efforts include:

- Indian Child Welfare Act: Addressing the interpretation and implementation of ICWA in protecting the rights and well-being of American Indian children.
- Eliminating Health Disparities: Providing leadership in developing an American Indian Blueprint for improving our health through systemic change.
- Education: Working with the Minneapolis School District to reverse and improve our graduation rate.
- Community Development: MUID created the Indian NRP Plan. From initial planning to evaluation, the INRP has succeeded.

C. IMPLEMENTATION

The parties to this MOU acknowledge that improved communication and coordination on an ongoing basis is needed and will significantly aid the success of the American Indian population and improve city services.

Neither the MUID Group nor the City of Minneapolis have had a shared vision to increase the quality life of American Indian individuals and community in the City of Minneapolis.

The parties to the MOU will work together to resolve community, organizational and local government issues that may include matters beyond local jurisdiction. Resolution of these issues needs to be a collective effort that recognizes existing community needs for responsibility, participation and reciprocity.

C1. COORDINATION

Mechanism – The workgroup will consist of ten members. The Mayor will appoint the Workgroup Chair as a member of city government. The City Council will appoint four members Workgroup members from city government. MUID will select five members to complete the workgroup. All appointees will be in place within 45 days after acceptance of the agreement. The committee composition shall be leaders and decision makers with the ability to address cross-cutting issues,

Integration - The workgroup will create goals and objectives that shall be integrated into the business plans of key city departments. This shall include but not limited to The Office of The Mayor, Health and Family Support, CPED, Police Department, Fire Department, Civil Rights and the Coordinator’s office.

C2. ACTIVITIES

Annual Work Plan - The workgroup will develop an annual work plan that will address the goals and objectives created through the initial stages of dialogue. The workplan will also identify the tasks and information needed to implement the “American Indian Community” MOU and issue a “State of the Community” report. A draft of the work plan will be available for review no later than 30 days after workgroup is appointed by both MUID and City Council. The workplan will include components that address improved communication.

State of the American Indian Community Report – As part of this agreement, MUID and the City of Minneapolis will put forth an annual report on the State of the American Indian Community. The workgroup will be responsible for the design and production of the report. The workgroup will collect and present pertinent data in a timely manner and on an ongoing basis. The State of the Community Report will serve as a overview of the progress and challenges facing the community and serve as a roadmap for future action.

Evaluation – Reserved

D. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARTICIPATING AGENCY

The annual work plan created by the working group will delineate the role and responsibility of the city of Minneapolis and the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors. Upon the selection of the workgroup, a draft workplan will be presented to the City of Minneapolis and the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors no later than 60 days after acceptance of this MOU.

In addition to the appointed work group members, the list of principal staff contacts for both parties will be developed as an attachment to the workplan. They are responsible for working within their respective agencies to ensure implementation.

E. MUTUAL AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS

1. LEGAL INTENT. This MOU does not alter or amend any existing law or regulation, and it does not create or give any party any authority or right to try to enforce the document.
2. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT. This instrument is neither a fiscal nor funds obligating document. Any endeavor invoking reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This instrument does not provide such authority.
3. MODIFICATION. Changes within the scope of this instrument shall be made by a mutually executed modification.
4. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts any agency from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals. In addition, partnerships or other relationships will be documented or authorized in appropriate documents.
5. INITIATION AND TERMINATION. Any party, in writing, may initiate or terminate its own participation in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
7. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The list of principal program contacts for this MOU is attached.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this instrument.

(Signature lines)

(Addendums)