

Benson

Supporting full federal funding to the National Park Service for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area grant program.

Whereas, in 1988 Congress found that “The Mississippi River Corridor within the St. Paul-Minneapolis Metropolitan Area represents a nationally significant historical, recreational, scenic, natural, economic and scientific resource” and designated the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities metropolitan area as the “Mississippi National River and Recreation Area” (MNRRA); and

Whereas, the MNRRA is administered as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS); and

Whereas, a Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) has been completed and approved for the MNRRA corridor; and

Whereas, a grant program was authorized by Congress and included as an important component in the MNRRA CMP; and

Whereas, the proposed MNRRA grant program is intended to encourage local communities to voluntarily comply with the visions, goals and objectives of the MNRRA CMP through the provision of matching grants to assist projects that achieve MNRRA objectives; and

Whereas, the MNRRA grant program was operated for a limited time on a modest pilot basis and demonstrated the value of the grant program in leveraging non-federal funds to achieve MNRRA objectives, but has never been fully funded as an on-going grant program; and

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis and its various sister agencies and boards have been actively pursuing revitalization of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis for many years and expect to continue their efforts for the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, the availability of sufficient funds and tools to complete Riverfront revitalization is an on-going challenge;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council supports the provision of full federal funding (\$900,000 per year) for the MNRRA grant program in the NPS operational budget as a tool to encourage local communities to comply with the MNRRA CMP and leverage non-federal funds to achieve that purpose.

