



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Date: June 13, 2011

To: Council Member Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole

Referral to: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways and Means/Budget Committee

Subject: **Rebuilding Our Communities Fund: Long-Term Recovery and the New North**

Recommendation:

1. Approve the creation of the two-year Rebuilding Our Communities Fund: Long-term Recovery and the New North. The fund is to be administered by the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 to be funded from post-2009 interest earnings on the existing fund balance of Fund 01SNR;
2. Authorize transfer of 01SNR 8900-800 by \$300,000 from post-2009 interest earnings on the existing fund balance to fund 01800-8450100;
3. For the 2011 portion of the program (\$300,000), amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development agency Fund 01SNR (01SNR - 8900800) appropriation by \$300,000 from the available fund balance.
4. Increase the 2011 Revenue Budget for the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department Special Revenue Fund 01800 (8450100-375504) by \$300,000.
5. Amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department Special Revenue Fund 01800 (01800-8450100) appropriation by \$300,000 from the available fund balance.
6. Authorize City staff to increase the Community Participation Program contracts for the eligible neighborhoods by \$10,000. Future contracting of Rebuilding Our Communities Fund will be in accordance with City contracting procedures.

Previous Directives: None
Department Information

Prepared by: David Rubedor and Robert Thompson, Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Approved by:

David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director _____

Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: David Rubedor and Robert Thompson

Financial Impact

NCR staff is recommending creating the Rebuilding Our Communities Fund to support the capacity for a north Minneapolis community-led mid- and long-term recovery and rebuilding effort to address the devastating effects of the May 22nd tornado. Elements of the Fund include:

1. Two-year program
2. Funded at \$600,000
 - a. to support neighborhood organizations' capacity to organize; identify ongoing and evolving needs of the community; advocate for continued resources for recovery efforts; coordinate ongoing recovery and support services; identify gaps in service delivery; sustain community support, involvement and morale over a recovery and rebuilding period that may take years and is essential in rebuilding a vibrant and healthy community;
 - b. to support the community's capacity to coordinate, convene and incorporate existing community networks and stakeholders in the recovery and rebuilding process.

Funding for the program will come from fund 01SNR 8900-800 – post-2009 interest earnings from the non-TIF portion of the NRP fund.

Community Impact

The purpose of this fund is to build the capacity for a north Minneapolis community-led mid- and long-term recovery and rebuilding process addressing the devastating effects of the May 22nd tornado. The fund will build upon existing assets to create new opportunities for this area. The fund will utilize and support an existing collaboration of north Minneapolis neighborhood organizations to organize and coordinate the effort.

As the emergency response and immediate relief efforts wind down, recognizing and sustaining a long-term community-based recovery is essential. An organized, deliberate effort is essential in rebuilding a vibrant and healthy community. Such an effort must allow neighborhood organizations to identify ongoing and evolving needs of the community; advocate for continued resources for recovery efforts; coordinate ongoing recovery and support services; identify gaps in service delivery; and sustain community support, involvement and morale over a recovery period that may take years.

The tornado went through one of our most diverse and economically-challenged areas of the city. The recovery effort and the rebuilding process require involvement and inclusion of low-income individuals, renters, communities of color, businesses and other stakeholders. The fund will help to build the capacity of neighborhood organizations to build broader engagement, utilize and engage existing community assets and support networks, and capture the momentum to reshape the future of their communities.

Supporting Information

Neighborhoods Impacted and Eligible for the Fund

The following neighborhoods were impacted by the May 22nd tornado and are eligible for the fund:

- Folwell
- Harrison
- Jordan
- McKinley
- Webber-Camden
- Willard-Hay

Why This Is Important:

Beyond the immediate impact of disasters such as the May 22nd tornado, communities often are at risk of long-term impacts which undermine their ability to recover and realize their vision for the future.

- Depopulation of communities following a major disaster results in vacant housing, empty storefronts and a reduced tax-base. This further reduces the capacity of a community to recover from the disaster.
- Resources needed for long-term recovery may be diverted as public-attention is drawn to other priorities.
- Families and individuals often are in need of long-term mental- and emotional-health support in the years following a disaster.
- The fabric of the community is torn further as individuals and families in need following the disaster feel forgotten or left-behind.
- Broader engagement supports sustainable, long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

In addition, the area impacted by the tornado is one of the city's most diverse and economically-challenged communities. In addition to recovery efforts, the opportunity exists to capture the momentum of recovery and build a more vibrant and sustainable community.

The fund will support efforts of neighborhood organizations in the following program areas:

- ***Visioning, Planning, Assessment and Implementation:*** The Northside Neighborhood Collaboration will be responsible for mid- and long-term recovery and building a vision for this community. This will include working with the City and other partners to implement those plans. The collaboration will also help to hold neighborhood partners, as well as federal, state, and local agencies, accountable for recovery work.
- ***Capacity Building:*** The fund will support an increase in the capacity of the Northside Neighborhood Collaboration and participating neighborhood organizations to work effectively on relief efforts and respond to community needs.
- ***Racial and Socio-Economic Collaboration and Participation:*** Funds will support increased involvement of communities of color, renters, low-income individuals and other community support networks in tornado relief activities.
- ***Advocacy for the Community:*** The Northside Neighborhood Collaboration will continue to advocate on behalf of the community to federal, state and local authorities to ensure adequate and ongoing resources to support long-term recovery work.
- ***Coordination:*** The Northside Neighborhood Collaboration will play a vital role in coordination of fundraising, service delivery, planning, outreach, education, information, event planning and resource identification and development.
- ***Communication:*** The Northside Neighborhood Collaboration and eligible neighborhood organizations can play a central role in providing ongoing communication and education for the community. Partnering neighborhood organizations can serve as individual clearinghouses of information and be the collective voice for homeowners, renters, businesses, communities of color, faith organizations, housing developers and other community organizations.

Eligible Expenses:

Eligible and ineligible expenses will be consistent with those spelled out under the “Funding Activities” section of the Community Participation Guidelines (approved by the City Council on December 10, 2010), generally substituting “tornado relief” for “community participation.” In addition to eligible uses identified in the Community Participation Program, expenses related to the following tornado recovery work activities are eligible:

Short term

- Build and sustain the capacity of the neighborhood organization to carry out long-term recovery and rebuilding work.
- Community engagement efforts that support broader engagement and inclusion of underserved populations such as renters, low-income individuals and families, the faith community and other existing community support networks, and communities of color.
- Support for families, youth and individuals in need of long-term mental- and emotional-health support following the disaster.
- Carry out mid- and long-term recovery planning in coordination with the City.
- Community building efforts that maintain and build the sense of community.
- Ensure continued involvement of City NCR, CPED and Inspection’s housing staff with neighborhood organizations to identify recovery objectives.
- Funding for housing coordinators for individual neighborhood organizations or for a partnership of neighborhood organizations. Neighborhood housing staff serve as advocates and a resource for residents, helping to identify needs and fill gaps in services.
- Provide support for community economic development initiatives. This includes but is not limited to “Buy North” – an effort to connect north Minneapolis contractors with the rebuilding work.
- Outreach to and education of residents regarding use of contractors, availability of resources, reforestation efforts, etc.
- Build and support single- or multi-block “recovery teams” that monitor and report on progress, provide support for local residents, celebrate successes with block parties, etc.
- Begin documenting recovery efforts for 2013 NUSA conference and other conferences (e.g., MN VOAD conference).

Long term

- Ensure continued involvement and inclusion of low-income individuals, renters, communities of color, businesses and other stakeholders in long-term recovery and visioning work.
- Attend to social needs and community building efforts in order to overcome malaise and discouragement, and to encourage people to stay with the recovery efforts. Celebrate surviving the storm, coming together, and identify and celebrate local successes. Organize and support community-wide events that celebrate North Minneapolis as a whole community. Utilize local artists, students, etc.
- Work with and support collaborative long-term recovery and visioning efforts for the community (developing land-use plans, etc.).
- Create, implement and provide funding for emergency loans and grants, particularly to fill in gaps not filled by insurance, FEMA assistance or other programs.

- Create, implement and provide funding for programs to support longer term housing rehabilitation to repair and support damaged housing.
- Create, implement and provide funding for programs to support construction of new housing to replace lost housing.

Implementation and Contracting:

Initial implementation will be carried out through existing Community Participation Program contracts, with up to \$10,000 per eligible neighborhood organization in impacted areas. Neighborhood organizations may be reimbursed for eligible expenses dating to May 22, 2011. These funds will be available immediately.

Ongoing implementation and contracting may occur either directly with the Northside Neighborhood Collaboration, or through individual neighborhood organizations. The collaboration or individual neighborhood organizations will develop and submit proposals for the use of the funds. NCR may assist with administrative support of the collaboration up to and until such time as the collaboration has established sufficient capacity for self-administration. All proposals will be reviewed and approved by the NCR director.