

## **Request for City Council Committee Action**

Date: December 13, 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: East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan**

### **Summary of the Request:**

The East Phillips 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 East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, in an amount not to exceed \$489,220;
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 489,220 from existing fund balance;
3. Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request

December 13, 2011

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: East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan**

Dear Chairpersons Goodman and Hodges:

At its meeting on November 21, 2011 the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board approved the East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and authorized \$489,220 in NRP Program Funds to implement this plan.

The East Phillips neighborhood is located in the southeast quadrant of the greater Phillips neighborhood. It is a 35-block area with a 2010 population of 4,269 residents. A distinctive feature of East Phillips is the great diversity of its population. It is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Minneapolis and possibly the State.

Two of the most pressing problems facing the neighborhood have been poverty and an aging housing stock. The dramatic increases in boarded and vacated structures that occurred in the late 1990's created a housing stock crisis.

The neighborhood responded to these major issues by using Phase I NRP resources to leverage the construction and/or rehabilitation of:

- 29 homes on vacant lots,
- 28 townhomes,
- one 37 unit affordable housing apartment building
- 43 existing homes
- one 46 unit affordable family apartment building (in process)

In addition, the neighborhood fought long and hard to create, with support from the Minnesota Legislature and the Minneapolis Park Board, the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center. This exciting new facility has become the social and recreational center of the neighborhood.

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In January 2011 EPIC recruited and established an NRP Steering Committee to oversee development of the neighborhood's Phase II Action Plan. They developed a Participation Agreement in February that included specific and extensive community outreach and engagement efforts.

The NRP Phase II process was kicked-off at the March 2011 EPIC General Membership Meeting that included interviewing and surveying of the attendees. Door-to-door surveying began in Spring 2011 and continued through September of 2011. Surveys and outreach on Phase II plan elements occurred at the Aquatennial summer event held in Midtown Phillips. A plan framework was developed in April and May 2011 and circulated throughout the community. An announcement was placed in the Alley Newspaper April 14th for a Community Meeting to review the framework on April 30th.

Two (2) Somali focus groups were held in the spring of 2011. Input was also gathered from meetings held at East Phillips Cultural Center, monthly community meetings, and monthly board meetings. Additionally, ongoing safety issues were discussed in multi-neighborhood dialogues.

Amendments to the original draft were developed in the spring and formed the NRP Phase II draft plan. A complete Plan was available at community meetings and a plan summary was provided in three (3) languages. The summary was posted on line, distributed door-to-door, and emailed to the EPIC membership. Community meetings were held on September 8th and October 13th to receive additional comments and input. Between the September and October meetings, a Latino focus group, a Nepali focus group, and a 3rd Somali focus group were held. Little Earth of United Tribes had outreach workers at picnic tables at Cedar Field Park and conducted one-one-one listening sessions with residents. Door knocking and visits to constituents who had expressed interest in adding additional comments to the Plan were also conducted.

The conclusion was a Community Meeting held on October 13th following door-to-door distribution of the draft NRP Phase II Plan, an announcement in the Alley Newspaper, placement on the web, and email correspondence to EPIC membership. The vote for approval was unanimous.

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The Neighborhood Action Plan allocates the neighborhood's NRP Phase II commitment of \$489,220 in the following manner.

Housing	\$	342,454
Community Enhancement	\$	70,000
Crime and Safety	\$	1,000
Infrastructure	\$	35,000
Business Investment	\$	20,000
Neighborhood Identity	\$	7,766
Community Building	\$	13,000

On November 21, 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 East Phillips neighborhood at \$489,220.00 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

**WHEREAS:** The East Phillips neighborhood has conducted an appropriate and responsible Phase II plan development process,

**WHEREAS:** The submitted East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$489,220 and dedicates more than seventy percent (72.21%) 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 East Phillips Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan,

**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 East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of up to \$489,220; [b] amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$489,220 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.

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

**Recommendation:**

1. Approve the East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, in an amount not to exceed \$489,220;
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 \$489,220 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