Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

Contact: Krista Bergert, (612) 673-5015; Amanda Arnold, Planning Division, (612) 673-3242

Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

Public Invited to Comment on Draft of City's Urban Agriculture Policy Plan

Plan guides land use and zoning to support local food-related activities

December 10, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS) – The City of Minneapolis invites the public to comment on a draft of the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan aimed at creating land use and zoning guidelines to support local food-related activities. The draft policy plan supports the City's Homegrown Minneapolis initiative that unites efforts to get more healthy, local food grown, processed, distributed and eaten in Minneapolis.

The plan will be available for public review and comment now until January 31, 2011. The City of Minneapolis encourages the public to read the draft document that includes recommendations related to land use, zoning, and access to land for growing food.

The City will host two community meetings held to discuss content of the plan. Meetings will be held:

- Tuesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center (3rd Floor), 310 E. 38th Street
- Thursday, January 20, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at North Central Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N

The plan is available:

- Online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp

- Public Service Center, 250 4th St. S, Rm. 110
- Minneapolis Central Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
- Hosmer Library, 347 E. 36th St.
- Pierre Bottineau Library, 55 Broadway St. NE.

Comments and concerns about the plan should be sent to: Amanda Arnold, Principal Planner, City of Minneapolis, Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, 250 South 4th St., Rm. 110, Minneapolis, MN 55415, or by email to Amanda.arnold@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

All comments become part of the public record and will be included in a report submitted to the City Planning Commission when plan adoption is being considered. A public hearing is *tentatively* scheduled for February 22, 2011 in City Hall, 350 South Fifth St., Rm. 317 during the regularly scheduled City Planning Commission meeting. After adoption by the City Planning Commission, the plan will be forwarded to the City Council for adoption and will be amended to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The Urban Agriculture Policy Plan is funded by the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), which aims to help residents live longer, healthier lives by reducing the burden of chronic disease.

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