

Minneapolis City Goals and Expectations

As approved by the City Council and Mayor, January 2003

Build communities where all people feel safe and trust the City's public safety professionals and systems.

Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe City

Deliver consistently high quality City services at a good value to our taxpayers

Create an environment that maximizes economic development opportunities within Minneapolis by focusing on the City's physical and human assets.

Foster the development and preservation of a mix of quality housing types that is available, affordable, meets current needs, and promotes future growth.

Preserve and enhance our natural and historic environment and promote a clean, sustainable Minneapolis

Promote public, community and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.

Strengthen City government management and enhance community engagement

Build communities where all people feel safe and trust the City's public safety professionals and systems.

Expectations:

Prevention and Response:

The City will balance its resources between prevention and response. Working with our partners, we will create awareness and prevention models to minimize safety issues before they arise. We will focus more of our energies on livability issues by exploring creative methods to address livability crimes within our communities. We will employ and encourage environmental design strategies to physically promote public safety.

Relationship with the Community:

The City will provide quality public safety services that are competent, consistent, and fair. We will hold ourselves accountable to these standards. We will strive to ensure the community's trust and confidence in our public safety professionals by strengthening relationships with the community and engaging them as partners in public safety approaches. Particular focus will be given to strengthening our relationship with communities of color and new arrivals. We will balance public expectations with available resources and will communicate our priorities to the community, so that they know what to expect from our public safety services.

Partnerships:

The City will lead our partners to implement strategies to address issues of emergency preparedness, criminal justice reform, and neighborhood livability issues.

Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital and safe City

Expectations:

Maintaining the existing infrastructure:

Available resources must first be focused on maintaining and improving the City's existing physical infrastructure rather than building or acquiring new infrastructure. The City will invest in new infrastructure only when those investments are essential for meeting critical City goals and where funding can be identified. Maintenance activities should develop and enhance a multi-modal transportation system where appropriate.

Integration of Infrastructure and Development Planning:

The City will coordinate infrastructure improvements with other development planning and implementation efforts in order to avoid unnecessary costs and disruptions. We will include infrastructure planning at critical points in the development process. The City will partner with other levels of government, including the Park and Library Boards, the University of Minnesota, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, neighboring municipalities and the State, as we plan our infrastructure improvements.

Improved Communication between the City and the Community:

Community and individual input will be incorporated more effectively. The City will focus on an effective two-way dialogue and information exchange between the community and the City, so that people have the opportunity to impact a project at the appropriate times in the process.

Infrastructure as part of the urban fabric:

The City will use the opportunities infrastructure provides to maximize the physical characteristics, social activities and cultural resources of a community. As we plan our infrastructure improvements, the City will consider the important role transit and physical and technological infrastructure plays in supporting a strong vital community. We will work with our partners to encourage them to do the same.

Deliver consistently high quality City services at a good value to our taxpayers

Expectations:

Improve Service Delivery:

Minneapolis will develop a culture of customer service within City government. We will make City services more accessible and user-friendly and will make our processes clear and understandable. City government will deliver all services in an effective and cost-efficient manner. We will ensure equitable City service delivery for all communities and will advocate with our partners for community-based service delivery.

Service Delivery Opportunities:

Minneapolis will continue to find ways of improving upon the way we do business. City departments will work together to seek out and address opportunities for improving service delivery. We will engage the community in these efforts where appropriate.

Evaluate Service Delivery:

Minneapolis will explore strategies and technologies that measure service delivery. These tools will be used to determine where resources are most needed and what services the City should deliver.

Create an environment that maximizes economic development opportunities within Minneapolis by focusing on the City's physical and human assets.

Expectations:

Physical Assets:

City government will serve as a community catalyst for business development, job creation and transit access. The City's physical infrastructure will support our economic development policies and facilitate access to jobs and services. Land use policies will promote mixed uses and strategically locate job-intensive industries. The City will strategically target and leverage its economic development resources to maximize economic development opportunities by focusing on specific industry sectors and locations (including commercial corridors and brownfields) where there are opportunities for transit or mixed use.

Human Assets:

The City will focus its human infrastructure investments in preparing our workforce for living wage jobs, specifically targeting hard to employ populations and emerging markets. The City will support a diversity of jobs and access to those jobs for its residents by working with our partners in the private, educational, and non-profit sectors.

Amenities:

Minneapolis is the premier regional center for education, health care, arts, entertainment, and recreational opportunities, and the location of a major research university. The City will encourage the development of these amenities in order to create a strong sense of place and an environment in which businesses want to locate and workers want to live. Working with our partners in the private and non-profit sectors in the development of these amenities will serve as an economic development tool to encourage people to live, work and play in Minneapolis.

Seizing Opportunities:

Minneapolis will be recognized as a good place in which to do business. The City will develop understandable processes for development and will balance promoting development opportunities with minimizing potential negative impacts. In addition, the City will support building capacity within the business community, in order to strengthen the business community's ability to attract new businesses and foster entrepreneurship.

Foster the development and preservation of a mix of quality housing types that is available, affordable, meets current needs, and promotes future growth.

Expectations:

Housing Affordability:

The City will identify gaps in housing affordability and will target our affordable housing efforts to address those gaps. The City will continue to provide leadership, along with our partners, in order to ensure a range of housing affordability levels in all of our communities, particularly in adding affordable housing in non-concentrated areas. The City will focus its investments on projects that ensure long-term affordability, meet specific guidelines for leveraging private funding sources, and optimize the number of units produced.

Housing Quality:

The City will ensure housing quality through planning, zoning and building and housing code compliance. Housing quality is defined as housing that is safe, well constructed, well maintained, and designed to fit the character of the neighborhood in which it is built.

Housing Mix:

The City will promote a range of housing options to fit current needs and to capture future growth opportunities. This range should include a mix of densities, unit sizes, styles, and ownership and rental opportunities. Special focus will be given to addressing housing disparities, integrating housing with other development opportunities, and promoting the City as having a range of housing choices.

Interrelationship among City Goals:

As economic development, transportation and infrastructure policies are developed, special consideration will be given to how they integrate the City's housing objectives.

Preserve and enhance our natural and historic environment and promote a clean, sustainable Minneapolis

Expectations:

Environmental Policy:

The City's environmental policies will be focused on improving air, water and soil quality. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to meet these objectives and to identify key areas where environmental damage can be mitigated. Key components of this policy will include monitoring, engaging the community, encouraging sustainable development (starting with City projects), environmental justice, conservation, addressing noise issues, and enforcement.

Clean Neighborhoods:

The City will work with residents and businesses to strengthen their role in enhancing the environment in Minneapolis neighborhoods. Special focus will be given to noise issues, litter and graffiti, and the urban forest. In addition to engaging the community, the City will be more aggressive in our enforcement efforts.

Environmentally friendly alternatives

Minneapolis will lead by example and encourage others to explore environmentally friendly and cost effective construction, transportation, energy, and solid waste strategies.

Promote public, community and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.

Expectations:

Partnerships:

The City will lead and promote public, community and private partnerships to address disparities in health, education and access to employment. We will advocate for change where disparities are identified. The City will identify our partners in building strong, healthy communities. We will work with the community to hold our partners accountable and expect them to hold the City accountable for our role as well.

Community Health:

Many of the services the City provides contribute to the health of our community, including our public safety services, infrastructure, community development efforts, and health advocacy, but our partners more directly impact the social and physical health of our residents through their social and health programs. The City will provide leadership, along with our partners, in maintaining healthy communities throughout the City, and will primarily deliver direct services through the use of community providers.

Strengthening Relationships among Communities:

The increasing diversity of Minneapolis creates both opportunities and challenges for our communities and the City as a whole. The City will support the strengthening of new relationships among our different communities and will lead by example within our own organization.

Strengthen City government management and enhance community engagement

Expectations:

Community Engagement:

The voices of individuals and the community are valued and will be heard and involved at appropriate points in the City's decision-making processes. The City will be more effective and efficient in how we communicate with and engage communities, and will work to include those who are typically under-represented in public dialogue. We will focus our engagement efforts in a manner that supports the long-term strength of a community.

Government Management:

The City will focus on enhancing productivity and creating a customer service-oriented culture. We will create a work environment where employees can excel, by building employee skills and improving employee diversity. Better information and analysis will be used to allow for more informed decision-making at both the elected and staff levels. We will develop and maintain a long-term, sustainable financial plan for the City. Special focus will be given to engaging our employees and the community in how we address and communicate these financial challenges. Elected officials and departments will hold themselves accountable to City goals, policies and plans.