

May 7, 2003

Dear Neighborhood Board Chair,

As you know, the City of Minneapolis is facing a significant loss of local government aid from the State of Minnesota. The loss of these general fund revenues will result in forced reductions in community-oriented public safety activities that have helped revitalize our neighborhoods. Residents have recognized the importance of these activities to residents and businesses. More than 35 neighborhoods included strategies in their approved Phase I Neighborhood Action Plans that supported community-oriented public safety activities.

At its April 21 meeting the NRP Policy Board approved a resolution that would dedicate \$1 million of NRP's Phase II funds to a dedicated fund committed to community oriented public safety activities. The City would only be able to use these funds to support community oriented public safety initiatives that are over and above the level of general City public safety services that will result after the budget reductions from the reduced level of local government aid occurs.

The fund can be used for, but would not be limited to, the following types of services: CCP/SAFE staffing, bike patrols, foot patrols, fire prevention activities, public safety personnel in the public schools, and community-based prosecution activities such as restorative justice and community-based prosecutors. Expenditures for administration, overtime and buyback would not be eligible for support from this fund.

The City Finance and Budget Office will administer the fund on NRP's behalf to minimize administrative costs and increase timely availability. The Finance and Budget Office will provide reports to the Policy Board on the use of the dollars. The level of NRP support provided from the fund for each public safety activity will be determined by the leadership of the public safety departments and the City Finance and Budget Office.

**The dollars in this fund will be deducted from the Phase II dollars available to support neighborhood activities and priorities.** Establishing this Reserve Fund modifies the Phase II Planning Process and Neighborhood Allocation Policies adopted by the Policy Board on July 24, 2000. In accordance with NRP's Policy on Notifying Neighborhoods of NRP Policy Changes or Amendments neighborhoods must have at least 45 days to comment on any proposed policy changes.

Final approval of this reallocation of resources is scheduled for the June 30 Policy Board meeting. We encourage you to discuss this proposed use of NRP funds at your next Board or community meeting and to provide your written comments or adopted resolutions to the NRP staff as soon as possible so that they may be transmitted to the Policy Board. A copy of the resolution is enclosed for your information.

We have also enclosed a draft of a resolution that the neighborhood can adopt that would include support for this allocation in their Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan. Adopting this resolution will help this action meet the requirements of the NRP statute. The neighborhood does not have to set aside any of its Phase II monies for this strategy (i.e. it would have a cost of \$0 NRP funds) but it can choose to set aside additional funds from its allocation.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for all that you do to support the City and the revitalization and continued improvement of our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Diane Hofstede  
Chair, NRP Policy Board

Paul Ostrow  
President, Minneapolis City Council

## **RESOLUTION**

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is faced with a significant loss of local government aid from the State of Minnesota, and

Whereas, the loss of these general fund revenues will result in forced reductions in community-oriented public safety activities that help revitalize our neighborhoods, and

Whereas, we believe that support for these services is critical to the continued improvement of our neighborhood and the City,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the (Name of Organization) supports using \$1 million of NRP Phase II funds to support community oriented public safety initiatives that are over and above the level of general City public safety services that will result after the budget reductions from the reduced level of local government aid occurs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this neighborhood will include a strategy supporting community oriented public safety initiatives in its Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan.

## **Proposal Summary**

### **What would be done?**

NRP would allocate \$1 million of its Phase II funds to a reserve fund for community oriented public safety activities.

### **Why is this action necessary?**

The City of Minneapolis is facing a significant loss of local government aid (LGA) from the State of Minnesota. LGA goes into the City's general fund, which pays for basic services like fire, police and public works. Three out of every four general fund dollars go to these three departments. For the Police Department, the impact could be the loss of 169 positions and 67 layoffs. For the Fire Department, the impact could be the loss of 55 positions and 55 layoffs.

### **Will funding from NRP help?**

NRP funds are not part of the City's General Fund. Any funds that NRP provides for community oriented public safety services would be over and above the level that the City funds after the budget reductions are implemented.

### **Why should neighborhoods be concerned?**

Neighborhoods have demonstrated significant support for these types of services in the past and more than 35 neighborhoods included public safety strategies in their Phase I Neighborhood Action Plans. NRP funds could be used to help mitigate the reduced service level that may result from the LGA cuts. Many neighborhoods have identified these services as critical to their revitalization and continued improvement.

### **How can the funds be used?**

The funds can only be used for community oriented public safety initiatives that are over and above the level of general City public safety services that will result after the budget reductions from the reduced level of local government aid occurs.

### **What services could be funded?**

Funds could be provided for community oriented public safety initiatives. These include, but are not limited to, the following types of services: CCP/SAFE teams, bike patrols, foot patrols, fire prevention activities, public safety personnel in the public schools, and community-based prosecution activities such as restorative justice and community-based prosecutors. Certain activities would be excluded. These include, but are not limited to,

the following: administrative support services, overtime, buyback and homeland security activities.

**When will the funds be provided to the City?**

This is a one-time allocation and will be made available for use in 2003, after the neighborhood comment period is concluded and the NRP Policy Board takes final action on this proposal. Policy Board consideration is scheduled for the June Policy Board meeting (June 30).

**How does this allocation affect the funds available for neighborhoods and Phase II?**

The dollars for this fund will come from the NRP Programs Phase II resources. This will mean a reduction of \$1 million in the total that will be made available to neighborhoods. The impact on neighborhood dollars will depend on the amount of resources finally set aside for NRP.

**Who will administer the reserve fund?**

The fund would be managed by the City's Finance and Budget Office on behalf of NRP. Expenditures from the fund would be recommended by the police, fire, and public works departments and would be approved by the Finance and Budget Office. The Finance and Budget Office would provide periodic reports to the NRP staff and Policy Board on the uses of the funds and a final report when all of the funds in the reserve have been expended.

**What action can neighborhoods take to help?**

The neighborhood can adopt the proposed resolution of support and commit to including a community oriented public safety strategy (with or without neighborhood NRP funds) in its Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan.

**What is the time line for action?**

**If the neighborhood wishes to comment on or provide support for establishing this fund for community oriented public safety strategies, it should transmit its action to the NRP office by June 27.**