

Memorandum

Date: May 18, 2005

To: Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Subject: Disposition of COPS Fund Ending Balance

At the March 28th meeting of the Policy Board the Board reviewed a recommendation from staff that the unspent balance of the 16 contracts executed to support police services in 2004 be returned to the neighborhoods proportionate to their neighborhood allocation. The \$ 1 million originally set aside for this fund came from the neighborhood allocations. The Board was given three options to consider (including extending the existing contracts or issuing an RFP for the unexpended balance) and decided to adopt the staff recommendation.

The Harrison, Near North and Willard Hay neighborhoods were the most significantly affected by this decision. The unexpended balance in their expired contract amounted to \$120,900.68 of the \$165,880.04 ending balance. Harrison, Near North and Willard Hay have requested that they be allowed to recontract with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) for the amount of their unexpended balance. They have cited the improved working relationship with the precinct and its Inspector and the continuing need in the neighborhoods as the reasons for their request.

At its April 25th meeting the Board discussed the Harrison, Near North and Willard Hay request and adopted a resolution rescinding its March disposition of the unexpended balance and directed staff to return to the Board with an expanded review of the results of the COPS fund effort for the May Board meeting.

Each neighborhood involved in a contract with MPD for expenditure of the special set aside fund was invited to attend a meeting with NRP staff on May 16th to discuss their experience with the services provided, the possible continuation of their contracts to expend any remaining balances and ideas for the disposition of the remaining balance.

Several neighborhoods indicated that they could not attend but sent email comments on their experience and expressed their desires concerning the unexpended funds. Representatives from four contracts (involving 17 neighborhoods) participated in the discussion on May 16th.

Some of their observations and findings:

- The process for getting agreement on the projects to be funded was time consuming and often included communication difficulties and resolving differences of priority.
- The neighborhoods felt pressured to agree to approaches offered by the precinct instead of policing practices that they preferred.
- The availability of these funds and the interaction that it required helped improve the relationships between the precincts and neighborhoods in some instances.
- The responses of the precinct and relationships with the neighborhood often depended on the attitude of individual Inspectors and the personnel working on the proposed disposition of the contracted resources.
- Only a couple of the contracting neighborhoods felt that the funded hours made any significant difference in the perceived or actual safety of their neighborhood. No significant changes in crime statistics were reported.
- Reporting back to the neighborhoods on the use of the contracted funds was sporadic and inconsistent. The reports that were received often showed resource dispositions different from the specifications in the agreed upon contracts.
- Neighborhoods agreed that they shared some of the responsibility for the results from their contracts because they did not monitor performance in the manner specified in their contracts. They pointed out, however, that they had little ability to change the use of hours when inconsistencies were acknowledged or identified and limited leverage to obtain the information needed to make changes based on project progress.
- Neighborhoods continue to strongly support their police precincts and officers but only Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North requested that their unexpended balance continue to be available for police hours.

The neighborhoods at the meeting supported making the unexpended balance of the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North contract available to those neighborhoods and the 4th Precinct for use in 2005 but they wanted much closer monitoring of performance. They recommended releasing the funds quarterly based on a review of resource use in the prior quarter.

Based on the discussions on Monday May 16th, NRP facilitated discussions on the possibilities of using a performance based release of funds and a new contract with the Minneapolis Police Department and the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North neighborhoods to determine if hours could be made available and how these funds could be most effectively used to meet neighborhood and precinct needs. The discussions were positive and it appears that a workable arrangement can be developed for the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North contract balance.

If a new contract for \$ 120,000 is developed for Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North, the remaining unexpended balance in the COPSRF will be approximately \$ 44,000. Reallocating this amount to 68 neighborhood groups will result in plan modifications, contract amendments and NRP and city processing costs being incurred for the next several months to move an average of \$ 647 to each neighborhood. I cannot recommend incursion of the required administrative expenditures to accomplish this level of distribution. I am, therefore, reluctantly recommending that the Board add these funds to the \$1.5 million program contingency fund approved on March 22, 2004.

Contingent upon the outcome of the discussions between the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North neighborhoods and the 4th Precinct, and based on the comments of the neighborhoods involved in the 2004 COPS program, I am recommending the following resolution for action:

RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board expresses its appreciation to the Minneapolis Police Department and to the neighborhoods that implemented projects / programs funded by NRP's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Reserve Fund for their efforts to improve public safety;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the COPS Reserve Fund was for activities to be completed in 2004, the Fiscal Year has ended and all billings have been received and paid;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That up to \$ 120,000 of the unexpended balance of the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North 2004 Contract be contracted for expenditure by the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) for police hours at straight time between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006 in a manner that is mutually agreed to by the neighborhoods and MPD;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That payment for the contracted services occur quarterly and only after review of performance and results by NRP, the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North neighborhoods, and the MPD;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the contract between MPD and the neighborhood shall include a provision for termination;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That any remaining balance from the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North 2004 contract and the other expired 2004 contracts for COPS Reserve Funds be reallocated to the administrative budget contingency fund approved by the Policy Board on March 22, 2004.