

Memorandum

Date: November 16, 2006

To: Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Subject: Harrison/Near North COPSIRF Contract

At its August 13, 2003 meeting the NRP Policy Board established a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Reserve Fund to help support neighborhood and police initiated community based public safety strategies. The Board allocated \$1 million of the Phase II funds for neighborhoods to this set aside and conducted a competitive process to select neighborhoods for funding. All of the projects and activities approved for funding were to be completed by December 31, 2004.

In a report to the March 28, 2005 meeting of the Policy Board I provided the members with a summary of the status for each of the executed contracts and recommendations for the disposition of the unexpended balances. The Board approved the proportionate reallocation of the unexpended balance to the neighborhoods to increase their respective Phase II neighborhood allocations. At the April 25, 2005 meeting of the Board the Harrison and Near North neighborhoods asked the Board to reconsider its March 28 decision and grant an extension to these neighborhoods for completing the activities in their contract. The Policy Board laid the matter over to the May 23 meeting and directed staff to develop, with these neighborhoods and the precinct, a more appropriate MOU that could serve as the guideline for expenditures in an extended contract.

NRP staff met with representatives from Near North, Harrison and the 4th Precinct to develop guidelines and an MOU that could serve as the basis for an extended contract. The Policy Board, at its May 23 meeting, voted 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 June 1, 2005 and August 31, 2006 in a manner that is mutually agreed to by the neighborhoods and MPD”. The adopted resolution further stated “That any balance remaining from the new contract between Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North and the Minneapolis Police Department at the time of its termination or expiration (August 31, 2006) be reallocated to the administrative budget contingency fund”.

The Board, in taking this action, decided that the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North neighborhoods needed more time to expend these funds and had crime and public safety needs that warranted continued reservation of the unexpended balance in the expired contract for neighborhood public safety priorities.

The neighborhoods and precinct worked hard and in good faith to implement the MOU and deploy the needed resources effectively to address neighborhood priorities, but other circumstances (such as the sharp increase in violent crime on the North side, the limited pool of officers available for off duty and extra assignments, and new initiatives of the city (i.e. Safe City) that competed for the same officer hours) reduced the ability of the precinct to meet the neighborhood needs identified in the MOU and contract. The result was that the records from the 4th precinct show an unexpended balance of \$47,148 when the contract expired on August 31.

The precinct has identified additional officer time that was expended in accordance with the contract but has not yet appeared as expended in their contract expenditure monitoring system and this will reduce the amount of the unexpended balance.

The Harrison and Near North neighborhoods and the 4th precinct have requested that they be given an extension of the time of performance for the recently expired contract, or a new contract if necessary with the same MOU as the guideline for police expenditures, to allow them more time to work on the neighborhood identified priorities in the contract. The request is to extend the time of performance to July 31, 2007.

After reviewing the rationale provided by the neighborhoods and precinct for continuing to reserve these funds for public safety strategies under the MOU negotiated between the neighborhoods and precinct, I am recommending to the Board that it adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board extends the approval granted May 23, 2005 that reserves up to \$120,000 from the previously approved COPSIRF program of the Board for expenditure in the Harrison, Willard Hay and Near North neighborhoods in accordance with the MOU adopted by the neighborhoods and 4th precinct in 2005;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the time of performance for expenditures from this reservation shall be September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2007;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the amount expended shall be limited to the unexpended balance of \$ 47,148 from the Harrison and Near North Public Safety Reserve NRP contracts (C1407);

RESOLVED FURTHER, That there shall be no further extensions in the time of performance for expending these funds and that any unexpended balance that remains on August 1, 2007 shall be reallocated to the NRP administrative contingency fund; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That NRP staff are directed to take the appropriate measures to either amend and extend the existing contract or execute a new contract to expend the funds in accordance with the MOU executed previously between the neighborhoods and the 4th precinct.



November 16, 2006

Robert Miller, Director
Neighborhood Revitalization Program
Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425
105 Fifth Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mr. Miller,

The Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA) along with the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) is formally requesting an extension of our COPSIRF Contract through July 31, 2007. The performance time for the COPSIRF contract supporting our community oriented policing efforts has recently come to an end.

Meaningful progress has been made towards improving police community relations, community directed policing, and coordination of community and police resources since initiation of the contract. However, several factors have slowed the implementation of strategies and spend down of funds within the contract timeline. Most of the factors stem from a shortage of Police Officers to address the scale of crime in North Minneapolis.

Increased crime in North Minneapolis led to the Police Department to direct the limited police buy-back hours to other police strategies. The 4th Precinct appropriately billed other funding streams contributing to the remaining COPSIRF balance.

Limited access to Police Officers has proved to be a challenge from the beginning. Essentially, the NRP strategies are placed in competition with other efforts to address crime in North Minneapolis.

As a result of the COPSIRF program, a positive relationship with 4th Precinct has formed despite the competition for scarce Police resources. Both communities have also experienced the benefits of community directed buy-back hours. That is why both neighborhood organizations request the contract extension.

A detailed report of outcomes is being compiled into an understandable report, which will not be available in time for Policy Board Packet. The increased Police presence was immediately noticed by Business owners and residents. A large number of firearms were confiscated during buy-back hours and the number of officer calls for assistance was surprisingly higher during the community directed buy-back hours.

503 Irving Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55405 o: 612-374-4849, f: 612-374-9777
www.hnampls.org

We will be available at the NRP Policy Board meeting to answer any additional questions.

Thank you,

Mitch Thompson
Board President