

Memorandum

Date: June 22, 2011

To: NRP Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Subject: Northside Neighborhood Funds

On May 22 the Northside of Minneapolis was hit by a devastating tornado. The damage, in terms of the physical impact on homes, businesses and the neighborhood environment, cannot be underestimated. The impact on the residents of those neighborhoods, however, has been even greater.

Over the past three weeks, organizations and individuals too numerous to count have stepped forward to help with everything from emergency shelter to food and clothing for those who lost all of their personal possessions to support for longer term actions that will help with the reconstruction of the six neighborhoods that were most immediately impacted by this catastrophic event. Many organizations and individuals have given their time, energy and resources to assisting with this disaster and helping with the recovery effort.

If the NRP staff recommendation on the distribution of the \$ 2.68 million released by the City Council on April 1 is adopted by the Policy Board at its July meeting, the six neighborhoods most affected by the tornado (Harrison, Folwell, Jordan, McKinley, Near North-Willard Hay and Webber-Camden) will have about \$ 505,000 available from their neighborhood Phase II funds for new contracts. These funds can, if the neighborhoods so desire, be used to help address the impacts of the tornado and help with restoring the community.

Even when all of these funds are expended, Harrison, Folwell, Jordan, McKinley, Near North-Willard Hay and Webber-Camden will have another \$ 1.5 million that has been frozen as a result of the December 13, 2010 action of the Minneapolis City Council. These funds have already been allocated to these neighborhoods and could be expended without any impact on other neighborhoods in the City. It is my strong feeling that this \$ 1.5 million needs to be released as soon as possible to allow these impacted Northside neighborhoods to have more resources to address the complex and expensive rebuilding

effort that must occur. All six of these neighborhoods had significant housing programs in their Phase II Neighborhood Action Plans. I recommend that all the NRP resources that have been allocated to these neighborhoods should be made available to them immediately for their rebuilding efforts.

Therefore, I am urging the Policy Board to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board (“Board”) recognizes that the Northside Minneapolis neighborhoods devastated by the tornado of May 22 need all the public and private resources that can be made available to them to assist with the complex and extensive rebuilding effort that will be required;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the six neighborhoods directly impacted by the May 22 tornado have \$ 1,497,195 that has been allocated to them for implementation of their Phase II NAP’s but has been frozen by the City of Minneapolis action of December 13, 2010;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board recognizes that these funds are needed by the Harrison, Folwell, Jordan, McKinley, Near North-Willard Hay and Webber-Camden neighborhoods to help with the revitalization of their neighborhoods;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the NRP Program Policy Board requests that the Minneapolis City Council release 100% of the NRP Phase II funds allocated to the Harrison, Folwell, Jordan, McKinley, Near North-Willard Hay and Webber-Camden neighborhoods to those neighborhoods from the funds frozen by the action of the Council on December 13 so that they may fully implement their approved Phase II Neighborhood Action Plans and address the impacts of the May 22 tornado.