

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 10, 2014

Subject: Council Support of the City of Minneapolis Promise Zone Designation Application, Resolution #2014-33

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Policy 1-1 (Supporting the principles of Thrive MSP 2040; community collaboration)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Pat Born, Regional Administrator (651-602-1723), Brooke Bordson, Senior Project Coordinator – Government Affairs (651-602-1364)

Division/Department: Regional Administration

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopts a resolution in support of the application by the City of Minneapolis for designation of a portion of the city as a “Promise Zone” under the federal initiative.

Background

The Promise Zones program is a federal initiative that seeks to revitalize high-poverty communities across the country by creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, reducing serious and violent crime, leveraging private capital, and assisting local leaders in navigating federal programs. The factors evaluated in program eligibility and selection include high concentration of poverty, high unemployment, relative high rates of violent crime, and high residential vacancy rates.

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama announced that he would designate 20 Promise Zones nationwide: urban, rural, and tribal communities where the Administration would partner with local communities. In January 2014, the first five Promise Zones were announced. They are located in San Antonio, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Southeastern Kentucky, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

For those selected, the federal government partners with the Promise Zones to provide access to resources and expertise, including designating AmeriCorps VISTA members to the community, assigning federal liaisons to offer technical assistance, and providing preferred access to some competitive federal grant programs. To date, there are twelve federal agencies working in close collaboration with Promise Zone designated areas.

The City of Minneapolis is applying for Promise Zone designation for the area of the City that includes Penn Avenue North (east and west sides) to the River, and from 42nd Avenue to Basset’s Creek on the South.

Rationale

The City is asking for local and regional partners to support their application. This resolution in support of the City’s Promise Zone designation application is in response to that request, and will be used to illustrate the Council’s support and willingness to work collaboratively in advancing the goals outlined in the program.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

The City of Minneapolis is seeking support for its application from a number of government units in addition to the Council, including Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

RESOLUTION 2014-33

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS PROMISE ZONE
DESIGNATION APPLICATION

- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services for the Twin Cities metropolitan region; and
- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region; and
- WHEREAS, the federal government created the Promise Zone initiative to partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime; and
- WHEREAS, the Promise Zone program's purpose is to revitalize high-poverty communities and expand economic mobility and opportunity by forming partnerships between local business, community, and government leaders; providing preferred access to certain competitive federal investments that further strategic plans; offering technical support of federal staff to implement innovative ideas; and
- WHEREAS, Thrive MSP 2040, the Metropolitan Council's long-range plan for the Twin Cities, highlights five outcomes in providing the foundation for a prosperous, equitable, and livable region – Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability; and
- WHEREAS, Thrive MSP 2040 identifies Integration, Collaboration, and Accountability as the three major principles that guide how the Council carries out its policies; and
- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has committed to working to mitigate areas of concentrated poverty by better connecting their residents to opportunity and catalyzing neighborhood revitalization; and
- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has partnered with the City of Minneapolis through the Livable Communities Act, strategic investments along transit lines, and other programs to further the outcomes highlighted in the Promise Zones initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council recognizes that creating a prosperous region requires cooperation and innovation with our partners in city, county, regional, state, and federal government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Minneapolis is preparing a Promise Zone designation application for a portion of north Minneapolis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Metropolitan Council supports collaboration with the City of Minneapolis in advancing the shared goals of the Promise Zone initiative and Thrive MSP 2040;
2. THAT the Metropolitan Council supports the City of Minneapolis in its application for Promise Zone designation.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2014,

Susan Haigh, Chair

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary