

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 8, 2016

Subject: Strategic Land Acquisition for Affordable Housing; Joint Powers Agreement Amendment

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to expand the types of sites where Council funds may be used to help acquire land for affordable housing.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action as part of its consent agenda on June 6, 2016.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: June 6, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 8, 2016

Subject: Strategic Land Acquisition for Affordable Housing; Joint Powers Agreement Amendment

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 471.59; 473.195

Staff Prepared/Presented: Beth Reetz, Director, Community Development Division (651-602-1060)

Division/Department: Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to expand the types of sites where Council funds may be used to help acquire land for affordable housing.

Background

In January 2016 the Council authorized its Regional Administrator to enter into a joint exercise of powers agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (Minnesota Housing) for implementation of a five-year pilot program for the acquisition of strategic real estate sites for affordable housing. The Council agreed to provide \$1,000,000 for the pilot program. Minnesota Housing will make the Council funds available to the Twin Cities Community Land Bank under a separate agreement with the Land Bank.

The Council and Minnesota Housing executed the joint powers agreement in March 2016. Representatives of the Land Bank subsequently asked the Council to clarify that land acquired with Council funds need not be limited to sites that are on or near transit corridors.

The Council’s guidelines for this pilot program state that sites will be eligible “whether they have or don’t have good access to transit as described in the Council’s Transportation Policy Plan.” The proposed amendment to the joint powers agreement will make it clear Council funds may be used to acquire sites whether those sites have good access to transit or not.

Rationale

This proposed amendment ensures the use of Council funds will be consistent with the investment guidelines the Council considered when it approved the joint powers agreement and the expenditure of the Council funds.

Funding

The proposed amendment to the joint powers agreement will have no funding implications.

Known Support / Opposition

Minnesota Housing and the Land Bank support this proposed amendment. There is no known opposition.

