

Northside Home Fund

City of Minneapolis Pilot Project Fund

BACKGROUND and INTRODUCTION

In August of 2003, North Minneapolis community leaders wrote to City elected officials asking the City to commit to developing sustainable solutions to the serious community and economic development issues facing North Minneapolis. Mayor R.T. Rybak joined with Council Members Barbara Johnson, Don Samuels and Natalie Johnson Lee, along with local leaders, to organize an action plan.

To implement the plan, CPED established the Northside Partnership, charged with the task of creating a comprehensive action plan to increase employment options, improve economic development, housing and environmental opportunities, and address public safety concerns in North Minneapolis.

A key component of the Northside Partnership's housing effort is the City's \$1 million appropriation used to seed the Northside Home Fund (NHF). The mission of the NHF is "To add value to existing neighborhood and institutional efforts to improve the quality of the housing stock in North Minneapolis".

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

CPED will use this \$1 million to establish a fund for non-voluntary acquisitions of boarded and vacant (249) properties for redevelopment in North Minneapolis. These funds will be used as a last resort, under the following terms:

- CPED will continue to use existing programs to complete voluntary acquisitions of vacant and boarded properties targeted for redevelopment.
- CPED will make acquisition decisions in consultation with City of Minneapolis' Inspections Department, the Problem Properties Task Force and the City Attorney's Office.
- CPED will acquire property after establishing a "cluster action plan" that the acquisition will support. A "cluster" is envisioned as a small geographic area, consisting of the vacant and boarded property/properties and the surrounding block/street. The "cluster action plan" will be a City-neighborhood partnership to redevelop vacant and boarded property promptly, in conjunction with leveraging additional investment and enforcement tools needed to improve surrounding properties. Depending on the needs of surrounding properties, City staff will recommend an action plan for the surrounding area that will support the redevelopment of the vacant and boarded property.

Gaining site control of these problematic properties is the critical first, and often most difficult, step in the redevelopment process. By using its \$1 million investment in conjunction with its local HRA powers and existing public and private investments, the City brings an important resource to the table through this pilot program, with the potential to impact North Minneapolis' housing stock and the lives of North Minneapolis' residents dramatically.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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