

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

Contact: Rose Lindsay, 612-673-5015

City of Minneapolis Welcomes U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services Office to Downtown Minneapolis

250 Marquette Avenue offers easy access by public transit to critical services

Tuesday, January 12, 2015 (MINNEAPOLIS) - The City of Minneapolis is pleased to announce that the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) office will be moving to 250 Marquette Avenue after more than a year of searching for a centrally located, transit accessible office. The move will take place in the spring of 2017.

The metro based USCIS office is responsible for helping immigrants residing in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin as they apply for citizenship or work to obtain legal status to reside, study or work in the United States.

“There is nothing easy about building a new life in a foreign country,” said Mayor Betsy Hodges. “Relocating the USCIS office downtown makes it exponentially easier for our immigrant population to access critical services and demonstrates that we understand the challenges our newest residents face and our desire help. I’m thankful to the Federal delegation for their understanding and work to make this happen.”

The City of Minneapolis first learned USCIS was looking for a new location in 2014 when their out of state leasing agent General Service Administration (GSA) selected a site near its current location in Bloomington. Community members and organizations expressed concern that the new site would be difficult for clients to access. With so many USCIS clients relying on public transportation to access the agency and an opportunity to move the location, the conversation grew. Senator Klobuchar, Senator Franken and Congressman Ellison became aware of the problems posed by the current location and worked to have the USCIS/GSA move locations.

In 2015, the USCIS/GSA agreed to broaden their search and began looking at potential sites in St. Paul and Minneapolis utilizing federal procurement guidelines.

With the search broadened, City of Minneapolis staff provided GSA insights on potential areas in our market to consider, particularly with strong access to transit. Staff also offered assistance to GSA’s local real estate broker to market the opportunity to property-owners who may have been interested as USCIS as a prospective tenant.

“Serving over 30,000 clients annually, I’m pleased to see the USCIS offices have chosen our convenient Minneapolis location to provide more accessible services to our thriving immigrant community,” said City Council Member Alondra Cano. “Having USCIS Downtown will bring more economic activity to our city and make it easier for new Americans to successfully complete their path to citizenship.”

“We are always honored when someone considers Minneapolis for their headquarters because it indicates that the infrastructure investments we are making are working, which is one of our goals,” said D. Craig Taylor director of the City’s department of Community Planning and Economic Development. “Having the USCIS headquarters in Minneapolis is a special honor, this move will help so many achieve their own personal goals.”

“The USCIS announcement is great news for Minneapolis,” said Council Member Blong Yang. “The new location for the USCIS office is located in downtown Minneapolis near public transportation, which is critical to the thousands of immigrants who need USCIS services.”

“I would like to thank our Minnesota delegation for understanding a critical challenge our New Americans face,” said Council Member Abdi Warsame. “The new location in the heart of our city, will allow Minnesotans who rely on public transportation to continue to have access to the USCIS services they count on.”

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