

Staff Report

Agenda Item: 4a

Title: Update on City Discussion with CANDO and CTUL

Action Discussion Informational

Date: November 24, 2015

Prepared By: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager

Attachments:

Requested Action

No action is requested. This item is for discussion purposes only.

Background

At the October 27th Commission meeting the agenda included discussion of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) discussions and correspondence with the Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) regarding the Community Innovation Fund grant awarded to CANDO. Also part of the discussion was the One Minneapolis Fund grant awarded to Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL).

The discussion on both grants centered on NCR's advisories to the organizations that the funding could not be used for union organizing. Commission members requested more information. The applications for each are being provided to the Commission. These applications are not yet public information so will not be posted with the meeting agenda. The following is a summary of the discussions between NCR and these organizations.

CANDO was awarded a grant to do community outreach and recruitment for a Seward Coop job fair, job training and education on immigration law. Over the past year or more CANDO, and the Bryant Neighborhood, has been involved in discussions with the Seward Coop about the Seward Friendship store which opened in October on 38th Street. These discussions are ongoing and involve issues that include hiring, membership for area residents, wages, and support for community development in the neighborhoods among other issues. NCR has helped facilitate many of these discussions.

Part of this process involved some contacts between CANDO and labor unions. The purpose of the letter discussed at the October 27th meeting was to advise CANDO that based on the advice of the City Attorney's Office, any staff time or other costs attributed to work with labor unions could not be reimbursed from Community Participation Funds or Community Innovation Funds.

A funding contract for the grant is in the process of being signed and CANDO is underway with their project.

Given that this prohibition on use of City funding for union work also applied to the One Minneapolis Fund, NCR staff also discussed with CTUL which activities proposed in their grant application could be

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later determined to be union organizing. Since CTUL's project involves funding from several sources, a funding contract was agreed to which funds only elements of the project which could not be defined as union organizing would be reimbursed with City funds. This agreement has been executed and CTUL is underway with the project.