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March 19, 2008

Mr. Robert D. Miller, Executive Director
Neighborhood Revitalization Program
105 Fifth Avenue South, Fourth Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mr. Ruben Acosta, Asst. Development Counsel
Neighborhood Revitalization Program
105 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 425
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2582

**RE: Lowry Hill East Neighborhood NRP Phase II Action Plan
Our File No. MN395-43**

Dear Messrs. Miller and Acosta:

We received your request on March 4, 2008, to review the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood (the "Neighborhood") prepared by the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association ("LHENA") Phase II Plan for compliance with the statutory provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1831, as amended (the "NRP Law"). For purposes of this opinion, we will use the same defined terms as used in prior opinions.

The Neighborhood is to be commended for its leveraging and matching of NRP Funds with other sources of funding, partnering with the City of Minneapolis (the "City") and other public and private entities, and for enlisting the use of volunteers in their Plan.

SECTION A: HOUSING

Goal 1: Support the preservation of neighborhood homes and buildings with architectural and historical significance.

Objective 1.1: Preserve historic properties by providing at least ten matching forgivable loans, establishing an historic district, and supporting the LHENA Rezoning Study.

Strategy 1.1.1: Historic Preservation Loans

NRP Funds of \$235,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(1), (5), and 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may be used to leverage, but not replace, public funds available for the same or similar purpose.

Strategy 1.1.2: Explore Historic District

NRP Funds of \$10,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), and 5(a)(3) and (b)(4) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may be used to leverage, but not replace, public funds available for the same or similar purpose.

Strategy 1.1.3: Promote Rezoning Study

No NRP Funds have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), and 5(a)(1) and (2)(b)(4) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may be used to leverage, but not replace, public funds available for the same or similar purpose.

SECTION A: HOUSING

Goal 2: Encourage integration of “green” solutions.

Objective 2.1: Inform at least 300 additional people of simple methods to reduce their carbon footprints.

Strategy 2.1.1: Green seminars

NRP Funds of \$2,000 have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivision 5(a)(1) of the NRP Law.

Objective 2.2: Provide at least 10 matching grants for green property improvements.

Strategy 2.2.1: Green improvement matching grants

NRP Funds of \$40,000 (\$2,500 limit per property) have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(5), (9) and 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law.

SECTION A: HOUSING

Goal 3: Support the improvement of housing stock.

Objective 3.1: Improved housing stock.

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Strategy 3.1.1: Home improvement loans.

NRP Funds of \$145,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(5), and 5(a)(3) of the NRP Law.

Strategy 3.1.2: Matching exterior grants.

NRP Funds of \$75,000 (\$2,500 limit per property) are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(5), and 5(a)(3) of the NRP Law.

SECTION A: HOUSING

Goal 4: Promote communication and education for landlords and tenants.

Objective 4.1: Host a workshop to inform tenants and landlords of rights and responsibilities.

Strategy 4.1.1: Landlord/tenant network.

NRP Funds of \$1,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law.

SECTION A: HOUSING

Goal 5: Improve enforcement for livability issues.

Objective 5.1:

Strategy 5.1.1: Promote "311".

No NRP Funds are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), and 5(a)(1) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

SECTION B: INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 6: Address loss of boulevard trees and remaining stumps and promote reestablishment of the tree canopy.

Objective 6.1: Remove remaining stumps throughout the neighborhood on "plantable sites" as identified by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in 2007 and encourage new tree planting. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

Strategy 6.1.1: Tree stump removal and planting.

NRP Funds of \$15,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivision 3(9) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

SECTION B: INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 7: Continue the standard of neighborhood pedestrian lighting south of 28th Street.

Objective 7.1: Light all blocks in the neighborhood south of 28th Street with standard of neighborhood pedestrian lighting.

Strategy 7.1.1: Pedestrian streetlighting south of 28th.

No NRP Funds have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), 5(a)(1) and (6)(b) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

SECTION B: INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 8: Move unsightly utility wiring underground.

Objective 8.1: Utility wiring will be buried underground throughout the neighborhood.

Strategy 8.1.1: Underground utility wiring.

No NRP Funds are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), and 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

SECTION B: INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 9: Reduce littering and improve cleanliness of the neighborhood.

Objective 9.1: Neighborhood appears cleaner through the addition of up to 20 trash receptacles, signage, and neighborhood clean-up days.

Strategy 9.1.1: Trash receptacles.

NRP Funds of \$2,000 have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(1), 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

Strategy 9.1.2: Litter awareness signage.

No NRP Funds have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(1), 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

Strategy 9.1.3: Neighborhood clean sweep.

NRP Funds of \$1,000 have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(1), 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law.

SECTION B: INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 10: Increase safety and awareness of pedestrians.

Objective 10.1: Provide signage where needed to improve pedestrian safety.

Strategy 10.1.1: Pedestrian awareness signage.

No NRP Funds are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), 5(a)(1) and (3) of the NRP Law.

SECTION B: INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal 11: Designate additional bicycle parking throughout the neighborhood.

Objective 11.1: To subsidize the cost of up to 20 bicycle racks throughout the neighborhood.

Strategy 11.1.1: Bike racks.

NRP Funds of \$7,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivision 3(9) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

SECTION C: CRIME AND SAFETY

Goal 12: Increase awareness of crime prevention strategies.

Objective 12.1: Increase awareness of crime prevention strategies.

Strategy 12.1.1: Crime awareness communication.

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No NRP Funds have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 5(a)(1), (3); 5(b)(4); and 6(b) of the NRP Law.

Strategy 12.1.2: Crime awareness signage.

No NRP Funds have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), 5(a)(1), (3) and 5(b)(4) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace other public funds available for the same or similar purposes.

SECTION C: CRIME AND SAFETY

Goal 13: Reinvest in block clubs.

Objective 13.1. Increase the number of block clubs and the number of people participating in them.

Strategy 13.1.1: Block clubs.

NRP Funds of \$2,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 5(a)(1) and 5(b)(4) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace public funds available for similar purposes.

SECTION C: CRIME AND SAFETY

Goal 14: Encourage a volunteer walking patrol.

Objective 14.1: Establish volunteer walking patrol.

Strategy 14.1.1: Volunteer walking patrol.

NRP Funds of \$2,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivision 5(a)(1) of the NRP Law.

SECTION C: CRIME AND SAFETY

Goal 15: Promote community policing.

Objective 15.1: Continue funding "buy-back" police bike and beat patrol service in Lowry Hill East for at least two years.

Strategy 15.1.1: Police bike and beat buy-back.

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NRP Funds of \$56,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 5(a)(1) and (2) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace public funds available for similar purposes.

SECTION D: YOUTH, ARTS & COMMERCE

Goal 16: Promote a sense of community and support neighborhood businesses and schools.

Objective 16.1: Improve the exteriors of 20 neighborhood businesses in order to stabilize and maintain economic base.

Strategy 16.1.1: Business exterior matching grants.

NRP Funds of \$45,000 (\$1,500 limit per business) are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(3), 5(a)(1), (3), and 6(b) of the NRP Law.

Objective 16.2: Hold a flea market on three Saturdays, one each month, during June, July, and August 2009.

Strategy 16.2.1: Flea market.

NRP Funds of \$5,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 5(a)(1) and 6(b) of the NRP Law.

Objective 16.3: Install a secured exterior changeable message board outside of Jefferson Community School.

Strategy 16.3.1: Jefferson exterior changeable message board.

NRP Funds of \$10,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9) and 5(b)4 of the NRP Law. NRP funds may be used to leverage, but not replace, public funds available for the same purpose.

SECTION D: YOUTH, ARTS & COMMERCE

Goal 17: Support youth programming with arts organizations.

Objective 17.1: Build a program of art, music, and culture for children and young adults, ages 5-25.

Strategy 17.1.1: Youth arts programming.

NRP Funds of \$30, 000 have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 5(a)(2) and 6(b) of the NRP Law.

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SECTION D: YOUTH, ARTS & COMMERCE

Goal 18: Facilitate employment opportunities for neighborhood youth.

Objective 18.1: Encourage teenagers to find part-time community service and employment opportunities.

Strategy 18.1.1: Youth employment directory.

NRP Funds of \$4,000 have been allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivisions 3(9), 5(a)(2) and 6(b) of the NRP Law. NRP funds may not be used to replace public funds available for similar purposes.

SECTION E: ADMINISTRATION

Goal 19: Provide support and coordination for neighborhood volunteers in the implementation of Action Plan strategies and planning for undesignated funds.

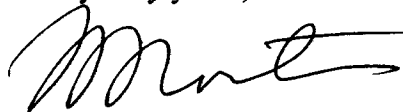
Objective 19.1: To maintain office staff and office/communication expenses through 2009 (at minimum).

Strategy 19.1.1: Staff, office, communications.

NRP Funds of \$140,000 are allocated for this strategy. This strategy qualifies under Subdivision 6(b) of the NRP Law.

The Neighborhood is congratulated for its focused plan and its vision and commitment to partnering with business, residents, and government agencies. If you have any further questions regarding our review of the Phase II Plan, please feel free to contact me further at my above-listed direct dial number.

Very truly yours,



Michael T. Norton

cc: Susan Segal, City Attorney
Robert Cooper, NRP Coordinator, Finance Department
Robert Thompson, NRP Neighborhood Specialist ✓