

To: Nick Cichowicz, Chair Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission & Commissioners

CC: Steve Gallagher, Neighborhood Specialist; David Rubedor, NCR Director; Karen Moe, NCR Deputy Director; Minneapolis City Councilmembers, and Mayor Jacob Frey

From: Citizens for a Loring Park Community

Re: Neighborhood 2020 NCR draft document comments

Date: March 29, 2019

Dear Nick,

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) has thoroughly reviewed the NCR document 'Neighborhoods 2020' and offer here a few comments.

1. We see this document as a complete paradigm shift from the past 40+ years of neighborhood support. Also, rather than empowering and supportive, we see it as regulatory and punitive.

2. We do not see in this draft document that Community Organizations, also non profit 501c3's like most neighborhood organizations, are being held to the same standards, expectations, or scrutiny. We actually do not see any definition for the purpose or outcome of their work, yet there is a defined % of funding proposed. We do not see that NCR would review their non profit organization's bylaws and require any bylaw changes. CLPC supports funding and partnership with community organizations but believe that requirements for funding should be consistent with ALL funded non profit organizations. CLPC has always encouraged and welcomed new volunteers, new committee members, and new board members. But, the fiduciary responsibility of running a non profit, which includes bylaws, policies, and term limits...lie with that 501c3 non profit organization.

3. There is a diagram in the document which reflects all of the services which NCR will provide to neighborhoods. We would like to see the data which supports the need to offer these services and thus their cost. CLPC Coordinator brings in Dunwoody and Minneapolis College students as often as possible. A graduate of the community organizing/community development program at Minneapolis College puts together the monthly newsletter and she is on the team which redesigned our website. Another Media graduate at Minneapolis College designed and set up the Facebook page. For support services, we search out neighborhood partners and contractors which have a fit and skill set for the Loring Park neighborhood. We prioritize using local, small businesses to a) support them and b) to build community. Our bookkeeper is a woman owned business and our CPA, an African American owned business. A centralized pool of resources seems contrary to the goals of the 2020 document and to the City of Minneapolis goals and vision.

4. CLPC would support and help to organize a city wide Annual Summit, but a city wide Annual Meeting to elect Board members is not within the vision of our organization. CLPC uses

our Annual Meeting as a community building event. Partners and Neighborhood Resources set up Information Tables. We raise funds and pay a local vendor to cater. We invite our Electeds Representatives to speak and to network with their constituents. People meet each other, new volunteers are recruited, and board elections are local. We ensure that the location is local and within walking distance.

Many residents do not own a car. So, just like when people vote for a Councilmember, Legislator, Mayor we ensure that the location to vote at is within the neighborhood. Close to where Loring Park residents live, where local businesses are, and where local property owners manage. So it is accessible and convenient for anyone who lives, works, or owns property to attend.

5. Any Commission for this program needs to include the word 'Neighborhood'. Communities are in Neighborhoods and Neighborhoods make up a City. To remove 'Neighborhood' as seen in this draft document is very concerning. CLPC also believes that no less than eight (8) Representatives should be elected and accountable to the Neighborhoods. Appointed Representatives are accountable to those who appoint them. CLPC supports the Governance Workgroup's Recommendations and appreciates all of the thought, evaluation, debate, discussion and hard work to develop these recommendations.

6. The final and most important point is that there is zero funding committed. It would be fiscally irresponsible as a Minnesota non profit compliant to the State Non Profit Law, to approve this document or its expectations for our neighborhood organization without evaluating our capacity. Presently, the document states that 50% of an allocation would be allowable for administrative purposes. If CLPC was funded at the current level of \$72,000/yr. this would provide to us \$36,000/yr. Vastly under capitalizing what is needed to run our organization or meet expectations articulated in this draft document.

Through NCEC Listening Sessions, Community Connection Conference Sessions, Community Meetings, and World Cafe 'Art of Hosting' gatherings we heard over and over again:

- Funding needs to be flexible and multi year; no less than 5 years, up to 10 years.
- Funding should be an objective, formula based process, not subjective as articulated in the NCR draft 2020 document.
- The base level of funding needs to be raised.
- There needs to be Project funding, otherwise what are neighborhood organizing for? And such funding needs to be a part of one application so accessible when needed.

Not three applications and not competitive. Competitive funding is divisive and does not build partnerships.

CLPC would like to thank all of the workgroups and appreciates the volunteer time put into that work. We support their outcomes and want to see that work integrated into any draft 2020 Plan approved.

We ask the question - why ask people for their opinions and their work if it is not used? This is contrary to engagement. This is contrary to active participation. This does not lead to empowerment and it is not a power sharing model.

Therefore, CLPC cannot accept or approve the NCR draft document titled Neighborhoods 2020. We believe that any further discussion by neighborhoods or by City Council should be delayed until funding is secured and we can review, in good faith, any proposed expectations for neighborhood organizations.

Sincerely,

Gary Simpson, President

Citizens for a Loring Park Board of Directors