

2015 Accomplishments

The City of Minneapolis made significant progress in working towards our goals in 2015:

Living well

- We worked to build a healthier community by *removing more than 25,000 lbs. of air pollution* in the City with the Health Department's Green Business Matching Grant Program.
- We updated our smoke-free environment policy to address electronic cigarette use, and we protected young people's health by *restricting the places where flavored tobacco products can be sold* and making cigar products more expensive.
- We reduced waste and improved soil quality with a *new organics recycling program*.
- We supported City employees as they balance their career and family life by *offering paid parental leave*, which was used by 99 parents.

One Minneapolis

- We made strides toward more equitable access to City services and information by adding an *automated option to choose Spanish when calling 311*, and by offering food safety trainings for restaurant managers and food workers in Somali — the *first Somali language food safety class* in the nation.
- We continued to change the face of our workforce to better reflect the community we serve. For example, the Police Department ended the year by making final job offers to a Community Service Officer class that was *61% people of color and 35% female*. Overall, 32% of new hires at the City were people of color, up 10% from two years ago.
- We expanded the Fire Department's program to offer emergency medical technician training in Minneapolis high schools which *creates a hiring pipeline to help increase diversity* within the department.
- We studied the use of internships and feeder programs through our Minneapolis Pathways Project to build on the successes of the STEP-UP and Urban Scholar programs and *create more sustainable pathways for employment within the City*.
- We researched and *piloted the use of body cameras* for our police officers and *provided fair and impartial police training* at City precincts.
- We did more to engage Minneapolis renters by *creating an engagement and advisory group* to better connect the City with tenants and increase awareness of our work and their concerns, and *starting a tiered rental licensing model*, designed to align costs and inspections for rental properties.

A hub of economic activity and innovation

- We are creating new, inviting, innovative, world-class public spaces with high-quality urban design by embarking on a once-in-a-generation opportunity to *design and build the 4.2-acre Downtown East Commons* site near the new stadium, and *renovating Nicollet Mall* to build better connections, more green space, and attract employers, workers, families and tourists.

- We had the *highest operating revenue* in the Convention Center's history (\$18.2 million) and hosted 385 events that served 797,460 attendees.
- We established a *new cable TV franchise agreement* with CenturyLink, bringing new business to the city and providing residents a choice of cable TV providers for the first time ever.

Great places

- We encouraged bicycling as a safe, healthy and low-cost way to travel by committing to more protected bikeways in the *Bicycle Master Plan*.
- We started making streetlights brighter, less expensive and more energy efficient by *converting them to LED lighting*.
- We *planted about 150 free trees* on commercial and nonprofit properties as part of a clean air effort through the Health Department's Urban Forestry program.
- We improved food equity, increased access to healthy food, and grew the local food economy by *allowing more City-owned vacant lots to be leased for gardens* and open to more gardeners.
- We made the City more livable, walkable and beautiful by *expanding parklets*.

A City that works

- We *launched community indicators* to provide big picture measures of the realities experienced in our communities and to help guide our work toward our goals.
- We made it easier to access and understand City services and do business in Minneapolis by *launching a new financial transparency platform* that provides residents and City officials with unprecedented access to the City's finances, and *making the form for appealing property assessments available online*.
- We *launched the MPLS Parking app* that lets drivers pay for on-street parking on their smartphones without going to a meter or pay station.
- We enhanced community engagement by *creating the first-ever orientation manual* to help board members and commissioners serve.
- We saved money and time and helped City employees work more effectively by *upgrading the City's human resources and financial software systems*, streamlining workflows, automating many manual processes, improving functionality and speeding up transactions.
- We inspired and motivated 94 more City leaders through the Leadership U learning and development program managed by Human Resources.
- We showed City employees that hard work and dedication to public service is valued by *launching an employee recognition program*. The Special Thanks and Recognition (STAR) Awards honored 21 City employees in 2015 for their significant contributions, leadership or positive influence.

Our vision:

Minneapolis is a growing and vibrant world-class city with a flourishing economy and a pristine environment, where all people are safe, healthy and have equitable opportunities for success and happiness