



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: September 12, 2011

To: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair – Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee

Referral to: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair – Ways & Means/Budget Committee

Subject: Minneapolis Economic Recovery Strategy—Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) Reprogramming

Recommendation: Reprogram balance of CDBG-R funds in the amount of \$178,973.40 from Winterization of Condemned/Boarded Properties to Problem Properties to fund staff. Authorize staff to submit Amendment #6 to the 2008 Consolidated Plan to HUD after a 7-day public comment period to effect change in use of funds.

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Ahna Minge, Admin Analyst II – (612) 673-3508

Approved by:

Henry Reimer, Interim Director of Regulatory Services

Thomas Deegan, Director of Housing Inspections

Presenters in Committee: Thomas Deegan

Financial Impact

- Other financial impact

Community Impact

- Other

Supporting Information

Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, Regulatory Services received \$200,000 to spend on the winterization of condemned properties. The goal of the program was to improve public safety and to maintain the housing stock. Unfortunately, because ordinance only allows winterization of condemned structures, our pool of candidates is currently less than 400 structures. In addition, many of them are secure, making them inaccessible to city inspectors. Others have active permits indicating work on the property. Finally, of those that are accessible, many have already had the copper stolen or pipes burst, disqualifying them from a full winterization. As a result of these conditions, wide-scale and extensive property winterization has proven infeasible. The program has resulted in winterization of approximately 30 properties. The vast majority of these had already had the copper stolen or pipes burst.

This transfer would fund staff in the Problem Properties Unit. The unit is already funded in part by CDBG funds. However, one staff was eliminated this summer due to the recent cut to Problem Properties CDBG. Through this additional CDBG funding, a temporary staff will be added to provide the same level of monitoring of vacant and boarded properties as before the summer CDBG cut. Staff will continue to work to ensure properties remain secure. Staff will continue to analyze the potential of condemned properties for rehab and recommend demolition, if necessary. In addition, staff will attempt to identify alternative strategies in order to reduce instances of copper theft and pipe burst that occur before properties are secured.