



***Making Minneapolis Neighborhoods
Better Places to Live, Work, Learn and Play***

January 15, 2008

Mr. Jim Ruiz
President WBCC
C/O Brian Coyle Center
420 15th Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55454

Mr. Ruiz,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Cedar Riverside NRP Steering Committee last Monday, January 7. In October, 2007, the West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC) Board passed a resolution regarding the relationship of the WBCC Board and the Cedar Riverside NRP Steering Committee (Steering Committee). The resolution outlined concerns of the WBCC Board regarding the present agreement with the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), and suggested three options:

1. Full authority of the WBCC in contract with NRP-any delegation of authority decided by WBCC
2. Contract between the NRP and Steering Committee to disburse funds
3. Direct disbursement from NRP to program activity.

As I stated at the Steering Committee meeting, NRP has ruled out the first option in the short term, for reasons I will detail below. While the third option will in fact occur in some cases (for example, home improvement funds are disbursed directly to a third party vendor), your resolution implies that NRP would directly implement programs identified in the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Action Plan. This is not an option: The Minneapolis City Attorney has opined that NRP's role in direct implementation is limited to planning and monitoring neighborhood NRP programs.

The Steering Committee has chosen to pursue option 2, and currently is pursuing incorporation. NRP supports this decision, and I have administratively extended the current contracts with the WBCC through March 31, 2008 to allow time for an orderly transition of NRP responsibilities from the WBCC to the Steering Committee.

In 2001, NRP allowed the original Participation Agreement contract with WBCC to expire. NRP