

December 5, 2007

Council Vice President Robert Lilligren  
City of Minneapolis  
City Hall – Room 307  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Support for Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Dear Mr. Lilligren,

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) supports continuing the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). We urge the City of Minneapolis to take action to protect NRP and ensure that it stays intact after 2009.

For nearly 20 years the NRP has empowered residents to respond to the unique needs of their neighborhoods. NRP is about civic engagement and providing residents a voice in how improvements are made to the neighborhoods in which they live, work and play. Through NRP, residents have supported and funded improvements to housing, commercial corridors, parks, schools and libraries. NRP has also supported public safety strategies and countless other programs throughout the city.

The Park Board is proud of the connections residents have to their parks and for the support and generous contributions it has received through the NRP. Citizens have chosen to allocate approximately \$20 million in neighborhood funds for specific park projects that meet their diverse needs. These allocations give us insight into what the communities' value and help us deliver programs and services to meet their needs.

NRP funds have also softened the impact of declining general operating funds as well as capital improvement funds for repairs to neighborhood parks. NRP funds have eased the deficit we are facing now, particularly in light of the recent property tax limitations imposed by the Mayor and City Council and the continuing decline of LGA funds.

Sincerely,

Jon Olson, President .....(*add other commissioners as requested*)

Cc: Park Board Commissioners  
NRP Director Robert Miller  
Mayor R.T. Rybak  
City Council Members