



EAST TOWN  
BUSINESS  
PARTNERSHIP

March 18, 2019

Council Member Lisa Goodman  
Council Member Steve Fletcher  
Council Member Abdi Warsame  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear CM Fletcher, CM Goodman, and CM Warsame:

On behalf of the board of directors and the staff of The East Town Business Partnership (ETBP), we are writing to ask you to pause in consideration of the Neighborhoods 2020 Plan; and during that pause to seek deeper input from the neighborhoods about the tools and resources they can rely upon to implement the ambitions contained in this document. We are specifically writing in support of the two neighborhood organizations that our district overlays in part: the Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) and the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA). EPNI and DMNA do vital work in our city – the positive results of which we see every day in many different ways. ETBP is a partner to each of these organizations, sharing common goals of making our neighborhoods vital, attractive places that encourage the wellbeing of the residents, the businesses located in them and the visitors and patrons who come to our neighborhoods. This city works because our neighborhoods are strong; they attract citizen volunteers to act on behalf of the city's greater good and they are accountable to the community.

We share EPNI's and DMNA's concerns that the Neighborhoods 2020 plan does not adequately address the proposed shift away from a city-driven, modestly structured funding/oversight system for neighborhood initiatives to a more bureaucratic and tightly controlled set of neighborhood imperatives. All organizations must be properly monitored but the proposed the transition must be managed thoughtfully and be consistent with the best ambitions for our neighborhoods, who are the life blood of our city. The Neighborhoods 2020 plan does not achieve this sensible, baseline requirement. The Neighborhoods 2020 plan applies more control to create accountability. And yet this seems to be done by arbitrarily narrowing the scope of how a neighborhood can spend the money allocated to them. The outcome of this process will be a stifling of innovation rather than incentivization of innovation. A better approach would be to have each neighborhood organization propose how it will use the money it is asking for and judge their requests on that basis alone.

We commend the city's political and staff leadership for putting forward a vision for a better Minneapolis. But this proposal needs much more refinement in order to really free up the ability of each neighborhood to be successful in the ways that serve that specific neighborhood's needs. We think a pause and rethink of the by city staff and the political leadership can improve

the community's expectations for how our neighborhood organizations promote a healthy, safe, efficient and vibrant community for all who live, work and visit each of the city's 84 neighborhoods. Please reconsider the implementation of the Neighborhood 2020 Plan as proposed: make it better, more nimble and flexible.

Sincerely,



Dan Collison  
ETBP Executive Director  
Executive Director



Paul C N Mellblom  
ETBP Board President  
Board President

CC: David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations