2008 Policy Priorities

1. Address unnecessary barriers that increase the cost of developing and/or operating affordable housing and small businesses.
   a. Fair Tax Treatment of Affordable Housing (State). MCCD will continue working in collaboration w/ MHP to reduce the tax burden for rent-restricted properties (State).
   b. Reduce the Cost of Constructing Affordable Housing (State). Expand the sales tax exemption on construction materials to limited partnerships in which a nonprofit organization is the sole or managing general partner.

2. Maintain existing funding and identify new resources for community development activities.
   a. Increase Resources for affordable housing development. MCCD will work with city staff/policy makers to proactively impact the Cities' budget process to ensure a continuum of housing needs are met. MCCD will also engage at the County and State levels to maintain/increase available resources.
   b. Expand resources available for brownfield remediation. MCCD will work with Hennepin & Ramsey Counties to ensure that Environmental Response Funds are reauthorized in 2008.
   c. Maintain (or restore) STAR Program funding. MCCD will explore current and proposed STAR funding activities by the City of St. Paul.

3. Promote policies/programs that contribute to healthy and stable communities.
   a. Facilitate the Acquisition and Treatment of Blighted Properties. MCCD will seek additional resources and tools to facilitate the acquisition and rehab of blighted properties (Local and State), work with city and county staff to revisit lot disposition policies (Local), and pursue an alternative acquisition process for blighted properties (State).
   b. Revisit Minneapolis Qualified Allocation Plan for Tax Credits (QAP). MCCD will work with members to identify areas where the City’s QAP may be finessed to better facilitate allocation of scarce resources to developments that will have the most positive impact. MCCD will also look at opportunities for increased consistency between City and State QAP plans.
c. Identify and support initiatives related to the Central Corridor Light Rail project.

4. Increase capital access and business development opportunities for traditionally underserved populations.
   a. Secure additional funding for Urban Initiative Program (State) MCCD will explore options for creating a rural-urban partnership that can advocate for increased Urban Initiative Program funding as part of a new statewide micro loan initiative.
   b. Increase support for technical assistance to small businesses (State, County, Local) The partnership described above will also advocate for a statewide technical assistance funding program.

Endorsements

Support of the City of St. Paul's efforts to use Tax Increment Financing as a tool for redevelopment

Contact Craig Johnson with questions or comments on MCCD’s 2008 Policy Priorities at 612-789-7337 x13 or email cjohnson@mccdmn.org