



City Neighborhood Council

August 30, 2013

Mayor Mike McGinn
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

2013 NMF Large Projects Fund Cycle - CRT Panel Award Recommendations

Dear Mayor McGinn:

At the City Neighborhood Council (CNC) meeting on June 24th, the 2013 Citywide Review Team, (CRT), award recommendations for the Neighborhood Matching Fund, (NMF) Large Projects Fund, (LPF) were presented by the Department of Neighborhoods, (DoN) and the review process utilized was further discussed. This letter serves to recap CNC actions and concerns voiced at June and July meetings: (The CNC does not meet in August.)

1. At June/July CNC meetings, concerns regarding DoN's NMF LPF process changes were expressed again;
2. Due to the decline in 2013 Large Projects Fund applications, (6 Received/Recommended) leaving approximately \$600,000 in unspent dollars, CNC members met with you and Darryl Smith on June 24th to discuss these issues and verbally requested a 2nd LPF round be opened in October to encourage more applicant participation. CNC members made the same request to DoN representative Karen Gordon at the CNC meeting later that same day;
3. At the June 24th CNC meeting, Karen Gordon informed the unspent portion of roughly \$600,000 from the 2013 LPF budget appropriation would roll forward to 2014 NMF LPF without the risk of loss, (2014 beginning balance would be approximately \$1.8M);
4. The CNC previously requested that DoN initiated NMF LPF 'pilot/experimental' process changes during 2012/2013 cycles be suspended and urged DoN to revert back to supporting the 2010 LPF review model designed to further align District Council Review and Citywide Review Team Panel processes where a broader outreach and education element was being developed;
5. At the June 24th meeting, CNC members expressed their concerns regarding DoN initiated process changes through a vote of Six Approve to Four Abstentions on the 2013 CRT Panel's LPF Award Recommendations citing lingering questions about how/why DoN changes were implemented.

The CNC acknowledges the significant amount of work done by all stakeholders for the 2013 NMF LPF round. Further, the CNC makes a **formal request for a second NMF LPF cycle to occur** in October using a Letter of Intent process. Thank you for considering. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Phil Shack, Chair
City Neighborhood Council

Laine Ross, Chair
CNC NMF Oversight Committee

Attachment – May 24th Letter



City Neighborhood Council

c/o 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 1700, PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
Telephone: (206) 684-0719 Fax: (206) 233-5142 TDD: (206) 684-0446

May 24, 2013

Mayor Mike McGinn
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Re: Fulfilling on the Promise of Authentic Citizen Engagement

Dear Mayor McGinn:

The City Neighborhood Council, (CNC), is comprised of passionate volunteer representatives from the Thirteen District Councils who devote countless hours of time to make the city a better place to live, work and play. Many volunteers were inspired to participate through their involvement with the Department of Neighborhoods, (DoN), Neighborhood Matching Fund, (NMF), an internationally recognized and award winning model. Your journey toward service as Mayor of Seattle must have been influenced by your passion for citizen engagement - you 'get' the value and need for citizen participation in government. ***It is the promise of civic engagement that brings folks to the city's table. It is the successful delivery of that promise that will keep folks coming back to the table.***

The CNC and District Councils have worked hard to foster and maintain a collaborative relationship with DoN, particularly with respect to the Neighborhood Matching Fund, (NMF). Historically, NMF policies have been governed by volunteers in partnership with DoN as reflected in Resolution 28115. However, the Department has recently advanced a number of modifications to the NMF Large Projects Fund application and review process without the involvement of the CNC and District Councils.

Further, in the past week, the CNC and District Councils learned that only six applications were submitted to the NMF, Large Projects Fund by the May 6th deadline, ***a sharp decline of approximately 300% over prior periods*** and likely attributable to process modifications made by DoN. The Department's actions may have jeopardized the budget appropriation for the Large Projects Fund, placing the entire NMF Program at risk. The possibility that these issues may negatively impact your citizen outreach strategies and legacy is real.

In closing, members of the City Neighborhood Council, representing the Thirteen District Councils, request a meeting in the next week to discuss ideas about how your office will work to remedy this situation and to mutually agree upon a solution. (Please see Exhibit A for a brief outline of steps to discuss.)

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. We look forward to hearing from your office as soon as possible to set a date that works for both parties.

Sincerely,

Phil Shack, Chair
City Neighborhood Council

Laine Ross, Chair
CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee

700 Fifth Ave, Suite 1700, PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649 | (206) 684-0719 Fax: (206) 233-5142 TDD: (206) 684-0446

District Councils – Seattle Neighborhoods: Ballard | Central | Delridge Neighborhoods | Downtown | East
Greater Duwamish | Lake Union | Magnolia/Queen Anne | North | Northeast | Northwest | Southeast | Southwest



City Neighborhood Council

c/o 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 1700, PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
Telephone: (206) 684-0719 Fax: (206) 233-5142 TDD: (206) 684-0446

May 24, 2013
Mayor Mike McGinn
Exhibit A

Discussion Points **2013 DoN, NMF Large Projects Fund Application Shortfall**

- Open Another LPF Round (application deadline October 1, 2013)
- Adjust the application and review calendar in consultation with DoN NMF Staff
- Restore the Letter of Intent as a step prior to final applications, eliminating mandatory workshop requirement
- Broaden channels for application submission – paper and email, including website
- Broadly publicize deadline
- Allow and encourage Neighborhood District Coordinators to advise applicants
- Revert to 2010 NMF LPF Review Process - Citywide Review Team (CRT) & District Council Review Teams (DCRT) conduct reviews separately – do not combine panels during CRT Open House
- Preserve total budget authorization of \$1.1M for Large Projects Fund
- Do not allocate LPF dollars to Small & Simple Fund without further review of potential impacts

The CNC will support the efforts via outreach to District Councils and work with DoN to ensure process integrity.

Exhibit A

700 Fifth Ave, Suite 1700, PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649 | (206) 684-0719 Fax: (206) 233-5142 TDD: (206) 684-0446

District Councils – Seattle Neighborhoods: Ballard | Central | Delridge Neighborhoods | Downtown | East
Greater Duwamish | Lake Union | Magnolia/Queen Anne | North | Northeast | Northwest | Southeast | Southwest