



The City of Minneapolis

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A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

By Reich, Gordon, Frey, B. Johnson, Yang, Warsame, Goodman, Glidden, Cano, Bender, Quincy, A. Johnson and Palmisano

Recognizing the Week of September 8, 2014, as Cooperatives Week.

Whereas, Minnesota has been home to cooperative businesses since the 1860s, including agricultural, electrical, newspaper and retail co-ops, and today leads the nation with over 1,000 cooperatives employing nearly 42,000 people; and

Whereas, Minnesota has a long history of legislation supporting cooperatives, beginning with Governor Floyd B. Olson in 1933 and continuing through laws sponsored by Gary DeCramer in 1989, and the adoption in 2003 of the Minnesota Cooperative Associations Act, Minn. Chapter 308B; and

Whereas, cooperative businesses first played a role in the City of Minneapolis's economy in the 1870s, when coopers formed the first barrel making cooperatives to serve the City's flour milling industry; and

Whereas, local cooperatives established in the 1930s, including Group Health Mutual, now known as Health Partners, and Chateau Co-op Dining Club, later known as the Chateau Student Housing Cooperative, helped people in Minneapolis to endure and recover from the Great Depression; and

Whereas, a new wave of cooperative businesses emerged in the City of Minneapolis in the 1970s, with the establishment of co-ops such as the North Country Co-op, Seward Community Café and Park Cooperative Apartments; and

Whereas, Minneapolis is home to dozens of cooperative businesses in the sectors of food, childcare, credit unions, financial services, healthcare, housing, real estate development, recreation and more; and

Whereas, the United Nations supports International Cooperative Day and designated 2012 as the International Year of the Cooperatives, under the unifying theme that "cooperative enterprises build a better world"; and

Whereas, the cooperative business model has demonstrated its unique utility as a tool for the economic empowerment of individuals and communities through creating access to capital and resources, employing collaborative decision-making processes, and incorporating the principle of concern for community; and

Whereas, the National Cooperative Business Association's 2014 Purchasing Cooperatives Conference and Annual Cooperative Conference are being hosted in the City of Minneapolis September 8-11;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That we proclaim the Week of September 8, 2014, to be "Cooperatives Week".

Passed, August 29, 2014

Barbara Johnson, President of the Council

Approved: Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Attest: Casey Carl, City Clerk