



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of the Mayor

Date: December 8, 2014

To: Honorable Cam Gordon, Chair, Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee

Subject: **City of Minneapolis Designated as Climate Action Champion from White House**

Recommendations: Receive and File

Department Information

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| Prepared by: Stephanie Zawistowski Approved by: John Stiles Presenters in Committee: Stephanie Zawistowski |
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Financial Impact: Revenue neutral.

Supporting Information:

On October 1, 2014, the Obama administration launched the first round of the Climate Action Champion competition. According to the White House statement at the launch, the objective of the program is to “recognize and support the path-breaking steps that local and tribal governments are already taking to reduce carbon pollution and prepare for the impacts of climate change.” Administered by the Department of Energy (DOE), eligible communities interested in applying needed to detail their past leadership on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilience, as well as discuss future plans and goals. Applications were due October 27.

In coordination with the City Coordinator, City Council, Sustainability, Emergency Management, and Intergovernmental Relations, the Mayor’s office compiled the application. Among many other accomplishments, the application featured the City’s Climate Action Plan and the new Clean Energy Partnership as the primary achievements that demonstrate Minneapolis’ leadership on this issue.

The City of Minneapolis received notification on December 2, 2014 that it is one of 16 communities from around the country to be selected by the White House and DOE as the first cohort of Climate Action Champions. As a part of President Obama’s strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this designation means Minneapolis will be eligible for special consideration for Federal

grants from a number of agencies, including, but not limited to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Additionally, a liaison will be assigned to each Climate Action Champion to foster coordination and communication across the Federal agencies, national organizations, and foundations in support of each community's work. The coordinator will also assist efforts to raise awareness of funding and technical assistance opportunities that are available specifically for Climate Action Champions.