

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

To: Ways & Means
Date: 5/23/2016
Referral: N/A
From: Neighborhood & Community Relations
Lead Staff: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager
Presented by: Howard Blin
File Type: Action

Subject:

Gift Acceptance for City staff travel expenses to Sweden

Description:

Passage of Resolution accepting a gift of approximately \$2,555 from the U.S State Department and various Swedish entities for the travel of Abdirashid Ahmed, East African Community Specialist with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, to Sweden to discuss outreach to immigrant communities.

Previous Actions:

None

Background/Analysis:

Abdirashid Ahmed, East African Community Specialist with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, was invited by the U.S. State Department to travel to Sweden to participate in discussions about best practices for integrating immigrant populations. This is an outgrowth of a September 2015 visit to Minneapolis by researchers from Lund University in Sweden who were here to study the City's outreach efforts to the East African immigrant community. Mr. Ahmed and others members of the Minneapolis Somali community participated in discussions with the visitors. During that visit the Swedes were impressed by the economic and social progress made by the Minneapolis East African community relative to those same groups in Sweden.

Mr. Ahmed participated in seminars and discussions on May 11 – 13 in Malmö, Eslöv and Växjö Sweden. All three cities have large populations of Somali immigrants. The estimated \$2,555 cost of the trip will be paid by the U.S. State Department, Lund University and the cities involved.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Enter SUPB goals explanation.