



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Civil Rights

Date: October 29, 2010

To: Council Vice President Robert Lilligren, Committee of the Whole

Subject: City of Minneapolis 2010 Disparity Study Report

Recommendation: The Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights respectfully requests that the City Council receive the City of Minneapolis 2010 Disparity Study Report, hear a presentation from National Economic Research Association (NERA) on the Study Report and Recommendations, and open a Public Comment Period.

Department Information

Prepared by: Velma J. Korbelt, Director Approved by: Presenter in Committee: Velma J. Korbelt, Director

Financial Impact

- NONE

Supporting Information

The City of Minneapolis supports an environment where all people and companies working with the City can compete for our business fairly, and the City strives to eliminate discrimination against women-owned and minority-owned business. It is City policy to promote diverse participation on projects or purchases financed in whole or part by City funds.

In 2006 the City commissioned a Disparity Study to thoroughly examine the City's procurement process as well as the locations and ownership of companies that do business with the city. It also examined the overall marketplace and experiences of women-owned and minority-owned businesses that seek contracts in both the public and private sector. The study concludes:

- Women-owned and minority-owned businesses still face significant obstacles in access to contracts both with the City and in the private sector. Indications are that discrimination is a contributing factor to these obstacles.

- The City should be an active participant in remedying this discrimination. Without the City's intervention, the City becomes a passive participant in the discrimination. Also, by preventing discrimination in its own procurement process, the City helps prevent discrimination in the private sector as well.

The study makes a number of recommendations to enhance current City efforts to fight discrimination and suggests some of new initiatives. These initiatives involve both race- and gender-conscious remedies as well as some race- and gender-neutral initiatives.

In addition to other race- and gender-conscious remedies as well as some race- and gender-neutral initiatives, evidence from the Study will be used as a basis to determine the scope of the City's Small and Underutilized Business Program.

Now that the Disparity Study is completed, our objectives are:

- Present the Study report and recommendations to the community.
- Seek permission to commence a Public Comment Period starting noon on November 4, 2010 and ending at 4 O'clock p.m. on December 3, 2010.