



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

Homeownership counseling for current homeowners and new buyers offered in City Hall

City of Minneapolis continues to stabilize communities by teaming up with the Homeownership Center and its network partners to provide foreclosure counseling and information on homebuyer programs

February 12, 2013 (MINNEAPOLIS) – Whether you need to make repairs to your home, are struggling with mortgage payments and need foreclosure counseling, or interested in buying a new home, the City of Minneapolis can help. The City is teaming up with the Homeownership Center and its network partners—PRG, Inc., Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Hmong American Partnership and Neighborhood Development Alliance –to help current homeowners stay in their homes and inform buyers of the various programs available to help them purchase a home.

Counseling is available to everyone, free of charge. Office hours will be held in City Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 12noon and from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month, beginning in February. Spanish interpreters will be available in the morning on the first Thursday; Hmong interpreters will be available in the morning on the third Thursday. Counseling will take place in City Hall, Room 333, 350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis. No appointment is needed.

“Minneapolis’ greatest strength is our strong middle-class neighborhoods, but the foreclosure crisis has hurt many of them, with too many people having lost their homes to foreclosure and unable to buy,” said **Mayor R.T. Rybak**. “The Homeownership Center has a good track record of helping people get into homes and stay in them, and now with hours in City Hall, they are more accessible than ever. Even if you just think you might need help, they are here for you.”

“The City of Minneapolis and the Homeownership Center recognize the importance of foreclosure prevention services and homebuyer education in securing homes for families and stabilizing communities,” said **Julie Gugin, Executive Director, Homeownership Center**. “By providing office space

in downtown Minneapolis, we can reach more people in hopes of preventing homeowners from foreclosure and helping more homebuyers move into their first home.”

“By making counseling available at City Hall, we’re providing an opportunity for current homeowners at risk of foreclosure to speak to someone face-to-face to learn how they can potentially stay in their homes,” said **City Council President Barbara A. Johnson (Ward 4)**. “For prospective buyers, they can come and learn about the various finance tools available to help them purchase a new home.”

“Building off of our nationally recognized foreclosure recovery work, this effort lets us build another important piece in ensuring our continued rebound in the housing market,” said **Tom Streitz, City of Minneapolis Director of Housing Policy and Development**. “By helping struggling homeowners we help all homeowners throughout the City.”

For more information on foreclosure prevention and homebuyer resources, see www.hocmn.org and www.minneapolismn.gov.

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