

## RESOLUTION

By Schroeder and Ellison

**Committing to continuing the work of economic inclusion, affordable housing, and racial equity by working together as elected officials and departmental staff.**

Whereas, City staff, informed by community voices, partner organizations, research and data has proposed policy that the City Council has adopted creating goals prioritizing “equitable access to safe, stable, accessible, and affordable housing to eliminate racial disparities in housing,” “economic inclusion so that all workers and families are supported and People of Color, Indigenous and Immigrant (PoCII)-owned businesses in all sectors can thrive,” “reliable and equitable access to high-quality public services,” “sustainable practices and renewable resources to equitably address climate change while restoring and protecting our soil, water and air,” “arts and culture as an important part of inclusive economic development and placemaking in our communities,” and has further specifically focused on “reduc[ing] involuntary displacement in rental housing for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Immigrant communities,” and “increas[ing] the number of Minneapolis-based businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and increase businesses with BIPOC ownership that are still in business after five years”; and

Whereas, the city of Minneapolis is seeing sustained and dramatic growth, with over a billion dollars in development each year for the past eight years; and

Whereas, the benefits of that growth have not been shared by all people in our city, leaving out many people with limited incomes, communities of color, small businesses, and other historically disenfranchised groups; and

Whereas, some of the negative effects of the market include widening disparities in wealth, income, and other measures of success between whites and people of color; rent increases that have outpaced wage growth for low-income renters; displacement of low-income people; homelessness; displacement of small businesses; limited access to credit, especially for low income small business owners and small business owners of color; and an ever-worsening climate crisis; among many others; and

Whereas, in the past three years the City has significantly increased its interventions on behalf of historically disenfranchised residents and small businesses, and is considering further action, much of it being led or supported by the Community Planning and Economic Development department; and

Whereas, even with the progress that has recently been made and is currently under consideration, staff and the City Council agree that the magnitude of the problems in our community require even bolder and more urgent action; and

Whereas, this work is challenging and complex, and more resources and support are always needed;

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

That the City Council and the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development commit to the shared work of the City, creating a shared and viable agenda, supporting staff, and providing more resources and funding to this priority work in order to:

**Continue to prioritize serving those whose needs are greatest, especially people of color.** This includes very low income residents who earn less than 30% of Area Median Income, communities of color, and small, locally-owned businesses. This will necessarily require lower prioritization of those who have been most successful, and may result in lower numbers of outcomes without additional investment.

**Increase innovation.** The scale of the problems we face as a community require new solutions that have not been tried in our city before. Staff will continue bringing innovative ideas forward and actively work with policymakers and community to seek significant change.

**Build the capacity to make change quickly.** Our enterprise must be nimble enough to respond quickly to the deepening challenges our city faces, and tackle multiple issues at once. The City will need to create and foster even more outside partnerships to accomplish this work.

**Recognize the need to boldly intervene in the market,** to interrupt market dynamics that do not serve those most in need. Accept that some of the market actors who have benefited from the status quo may find this challenging.

**Embrace and increase the equity and diversity inside the department to reflect the growing diversity of the community we serve,** especially in leadership positions, as described in the SREAP goal to increase the hiring and retention of People of Color and Indigenous People in the City's workforce.

**Foster a culture of openness and transparency and mutual respect** among staff within the department, between staff and policymakers, and with small businesses and residents.

**Continue to emphasize environmental sustainability in our work,** because the scale and urgency of the problem requires an urgent and enterprise-wide response.

**Evaluate the success of our interventions,** using data to make sure we are getting where we want to go and getting better at it along the way through regular reporting of our results with a focus on the equitable outcomes we seek.