



# 2021 Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions

# Minneapolis Vision

Minneapolis is an intentionally compassionate city where each of us can reach our full potential while caring for one another, eliminating racial disparities, improving our environment and promoting social well-being. We lead in innovative and creative ways, focused not only on our present needs, but also the success of future generations.

## Minneapolis Values

**Equity:** City government works side-by-side with community members to engage all voices, creatively problem solve, and build trust, particularly with those who have been most impacted by inequities. This helps to ensure that opportunities are accessible to everyone.

**Safety:** People have a strong sense of security and can live peacefully in safe neighborhoods, knowing that City government is accountable for responsive and proactive public safety services.

**Excellence:** To achieve the best outcomes and the highest quality service, we are forward-thinking and exhibit competence, professionalism, and integrity, and strive for personal growth.

**Welcoming:** All individuals are welcome, regardless of race, ethnicity or place of origin, gender identity or religious affiliation. This enhances Minneapolis’ cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations.

**Stewardship:** We serve as trusted stewards of financial, environmental, social, and physical resources, recognizing that resources are for the common good today and tomorrow. We seek solutions that reflect our long-term commitment to end suffering in our city.

**Transparency:** People can trust City government and hold them accountable for making and communicating decisions grounded in accurate information and integrity. We build credibility by accepting feedback, owning our actions, and providing reliable follow-through.

## Minneapolis Goals

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| <p><b>Public Safety:</b> The City prioritizes collaborative and community-inclusive strategies to ensure safety for all members of our community.</p>   | <p><b>Environmental Justice:</b> The City prioritizes sustainable practices and renewable resources to equitably address climate change while restoring and protecting our soil, water and air.</p>   |
| <p><b>Housing:</b> The City prioritizes equitable access to safe, stable, accessible, and affordable housing to eliminate racial disparities in housing.</p>  | <p><b>Built Environment &amp; Transportation:</b> The City prioritizes high quality neighborhoods, streets, infrastructure and equitable access to multimodal transportation in all parts of the City through thoughtful planning and design.</p> |
| <p><b>Economic Development:</b> The City prioritizes 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.</p> | <p><b>Public Health:</b> The City prioritizes positive youth development so that all children can grow healthy and safe.</p>  |
| <p><b>Public Services:</b> The City prioritizes reliable and equitable access to high-quality public services.</p>  | <p><b>Arts and Culture:</b> The City prioritizes arts and culture as equitable access to high-quality public services. an important part of inclusive economic development and placemaking in our communities.</p>                                |

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**2021 Legislative Agenda** ..... p. 4

### **2021 Legislative Policy Positions**

**Advancing Racial Equity: One Minneapolis**.....p. 6

#### **Funding and Running a City that Works**

Local Government Finance.....p. 6

Capital Investment.....p. 7

Transportation.....p. 7

Municipal and Regional Governance.....p. 8

#### **Ensuring that the City is Safe and Livable**

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform.....p. 10

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention.....p. 14

City Livability and Community Wellbeing.....p. 16

#### **Creating Great Natural and Built Places in Minneapolis**

Environmental Protection and Sustainability.....p. 18

#### **Making Minneapolis a Hub for Economic Activity and Innovation**

Redevelopment, Economic Development and Business Development.....p. 20

Jobs and Workforce Development.....p. 20

# 2021 Legislative Agenda

## Advancing Racial Equity

Advancing racial equity is paramount to the wellbeing of our community and long-term vitality of the City of Minneapolis, and the State of Minnesota. The City of Minneapolis' goal is to approach all of our policies and programs through the lens of racial equity, and champion intentional state legislative strategies that promote racial equity and prevent and eliminate disparities in public policy and public investments.

## Local Government Finance

The City of Minneapolis supports ensuring balance in the state-local fiscal relationship by maintaining the current Local Government Aid (LGA) formula as modified in 2013, increasing funding for the LGA program, distributing LGA based on the factors of the LGA formula without unique exceptions and recognizing the need to fairly redistribute state revenues generated by local government.

The City supports addressing the provision in the Minneapolis lodging tax law that limits the total of all taxes on lodging imposed by the city, county and state to 13% by repealing the cap, or, at minimum, providing an exemption from the cap for each new additional tax imposed by the state or county since 2005.

The City supports increased funding for homeowner and renter direct property tax relief programs, and methods to increase usage of these programs.

The City supports Tax Increment Financing (TIF) amendments to the TIF Act so that pooled increment, including for affordable housing purposes, has limits calculated on a cumulative basis.

The City supports long-term viability of all state-wide public pension funds without overburdening local governments.

## Economic Rebuilding and Recovery

The City supports financial resources and policies to aide in strengthening and rebuilding businesses, properties, households and communities in Minneapolis impacted by events of civil unrest as a result of the killing of George Floyd.

## Transportation

The City of Minneapolis supports new and sustainable funding for multi-modal transportation, transit, rail, roads, and bridges, and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transportation systems.

The City supports a comprehensive transportation bill that provides local governments throughout Minnesota with the resources necessary to preserve investments and meet the transportation needs of residents, visitors, and business.

The City supports more direct accountability to voters and local government by enhancing the role for cities in the process of determining key transportation investments.

The City supports efforts to extend the midtown greenway nonmotorized trail across the Mississippi River, and opposes investments in this rail corridor that do not advance this goal.

## **Municipal and Regional Governance**

The City of Minneapolis supports efforts to maintain or enhance local governance and opposes efforts by the legislature to interfere in local government decision making authority.

The City supports legislation to permit the City Council to set the downtown taxing district boundaries.

The City supports a strong, effective Metropolitan Council for regional cooperation and planning around transportation, land use, affordable housing, parks and open space, water resources and environmental protection and for the operation of regional services including transit and wastewater management.

## **Violence Prevention, Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform**

The City of Minneapolis supports legislation and policies that build trust and improve relationships between law enforcement and all communities and incorporates best practices and procedures. Such efforts include building trust and legitimacy, establishing clear policy and oversight, the implementation of new technologies, emphasis on community policing, and investments in education, training, and officer wellness and safety.

The City supports funding for the programs of the Office of Violence Prevention that disrupt the cycle of violence through evidence-based programing.

The City supports legislation and policies that reduce the collateral consequences for low level driving offenses, which have disparate impacts on low-income residents and people of color. Policies should work to end the cycle of amassing fines, fees and state surcharges for these offenses that push individuals deeper into poverty. Policies should instead provide opportunities for diversion and restitution that give back to communities through service, encourage safe and legal driving, and allow residents continued access to jobs and education.

The City supports eliminating the unnecessary collateral consequence of driver's license suspension for non-public safety related infractions.

The City supports requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales.

The City supports legislation that remove undue barriers for a chief law enforcement officer to make disciplinary decisions, especially in use of force instances; and clarify the types of decisions that can be overturned by an arbitrator or a review body.

## **Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention**

The City of Minneapolis supports housing infrastructure bonds and general obligation bonds for affordable housing and public housing rehabilitation.

The City supports new, significant, ongoing and sustainable state funding and investments for affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and naturally occurring affordable housing.

The City supports policy and funding to increase housing security and prevent displacement such as; policies to encourage acceptance of or prohibit discrimination against recipients of rental housing assistance; maintaining the eviction moratorium during the coronavirus pandemic, appropriating funds and enhancing infrastructures to keep renters and homeowners in their homes; make permanent the 7-day pre-filing notice under the Governor's executive order and support a permanent 14-day pre-filing notice.

The City supports legislation that allows repairs to be made on distressed rental properties, that keeps renters in place and the repairs be financed with a priority lien under a Tenant Remedies action.

The City supports legislation to allow local units of government to set affordability periods beyond 30 years for affordable housing developments that receive public financing.

The City supports enhanced collaboration, funding and strategic coordinated leadership from the state to effectively respond to the increase in unsheltered homelessness in both Minneapolis and statewide.

### **City Livability and Community Wellbeing**

The City of Minneapolis supports funding and initiatives that help to build economic security and promote public health, including sustained funding for the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, expanding medical assistance coverage to children with poorly controlled asthma, and funding for home visiting.

### **Jobs and Workforce Development**

The City of Minneapolis supports increased funding for youth employment programs, including the Minnesota Youth Program and the Youth at Work Program to ensure that youth, especially low-income youth and youth of color, in Minneapolis and across the state have access to vital employment opportunities that create pathways for successful careers.

### **Advancing Racial Equity**

*Advancing racial equity is paramount to the wellbeing of our community and long-term vitality of the City of Minneapolis, and the State of Minnesota. The City of Minneapolis' goal is to approach all our policies and programs through the lens of racial equity, and champion intentional state legislative strategies that promote racial equity and prevent and eliminate disparities in public policy and public investments.*

### **Funding and Running a City That Works**

#### **Local Government Finance**

A local government's main source of revenue is the property tax. Minnesota has a tax revenue system that centralizes most tax authority, collections and disbursements with the State. Cities may not impose non-property taxes, such as sales taxes, without legislative approval.

To compensate for restricting cities' ability to impose local non-property taxes, and to enable cities with high needs and low property-wealth to provide services at a reasonable tax rate, the State redistributes tax revenue to local government with a complex system of intergovernmental aids and other state-local revenue sharing programs.

Cities seek to ensure fiscal prudence on behalf of the public while also ensuring the provision of health, safety, and wellbeing through equitable public service for all visitors, residents, and businesses. Having a strong state and local fiscal relationship is critical to being able to provide public services for the residents and visitors who live, work, and play in the City of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis is supportive of policies that address local government finance, including:

- Diversification of revenue sources.
- Maintaining existing law regarding city authority to impose franchise fees.
- Reducing complexity in the property tax system and providing increased flexibility for local governments to collect payments for services on tax-exempted property.
- Amend state statute to allow local boards of appeal and equalization to receive and file appeal applications in the same way as county board of appeals and equalization.
- Ensuring balance in the state-local fiscal relationship by maintaining the current Local Government Aid

(LGA) formula as modified in 2013 and increasing funding for the LGA program and recognizing the need to fairly redistribute state revenues generated by local government to reduce overburden and over-reliance on property taxes.

- Distribution of LGA based on the factors of the LGA formula, without unique exceptions.
- Funding for direct property tax relief to homeowners and renters including programs that base property tax relief on income, and methods to increase usage of these programs.
- Eliminating or reducing unfunded mandates imposed on local governments.
- Simplifying the process for local governments to receive the sales tax exemption for purchases of construction materials.
- Preserving state support for state and regional assets located in the City of Minneapolis.
- Modifying the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Act so that pooled increment, including for affordable housing purposes, has limits calculated on a cumulative basis.
- Pension legislation that ensures the long-term viability of all state-wide public pension funds without overburdening local governments. Such legislation should fulfill the commitments made to our City employees, and could include reasonable adjustments to investment assumptions, employee employer contributions as well as continued state contributions including those to all local funds folding into the statewide plans.

## **Capital Investment**

State support for capital bonding projects in the City provides infrastructure and jobs to ensure that Minneapolis is a great place to live, work, and visit.

The City of Minneapolis is also supportive of the following regional or statewide capital investment needs:

- Fully support funding for the Bus, Bus Guideway and Express Bus Development Program to advance regional transitway projects including full funding for D-Line bus rapid transit in 2020.
- Minneapolis supports a significant investment for statewide bridge replacement and rehabilitation.
- Minneapolis supports transit projects that provide all-day service to increase access to jobs, both for suburban residents to reach jobs in Minneapolis, and for Minneapolis residents to reach jobs in suburban communities, like light rail transit and bus rapid transit.
- The City of Minneapolis supports continued metro-wide efforts to secure bonding funds for local inflow and infiltration and other storm water projects.
- The City of Minneapolis supports racial equity impact assessments for large capital investments funded in whole or in part by the state. The purpose of the assessment is to examine how different communities may be affected by proposed projects to ensure equitable development throughout the state.
- The City supports investments in state buildings and parks that are inclusive and accessible for all Minnesotans.

## **Transportation**

State funding for transit and roads is critical to ensuring that the City runs well. Stable and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding local and regional transit and transportation systems. Our state and local economy rely on a well-funded transportation system to ensure our ability to connect to jobs, housing, and amenities.

Transit investments to encourage new riders should not come at the expense of transit investments that improve service for existing riders on established corridors. Minneapolis supports equalizing existing riders with new riders and prioritizing transit-dependent riders in transit investment decisions. This principle should guide policy at the federal, state, and regional levels.

Transit investments, policies and programs should be guided by a racial and economic equity framework that proactively seeks to prevent and eliminate disparities and create access to high-quality service for all residents. Minneapolis supports investment in transportation and transit, including:

#### TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT SYSTEM FUNDING:

- New and sustainable state and regional funding for multi-modal transit including rail, roads, and bridges, and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transit and transportation systems.
- A comprehensive transportation bill that provides local governments throughout Minnesota with the resources necessary to preserve investments and meet the transportation and transit needs of residents, visitors, and business.
- Funding of all transit corridors that help build a complete transit system that continues to serve existing riders.
- Legislation creating alternative sources of revenue for transportation improvements, including local authority to create and make use of a street utility, parking revenues, and local authority to implement value capture.
- Ensuring that Municipal State Aid standards allow cities to design and build streets that safely meet the needs of all who use them.
- Increasing funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programming.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT SYSTEM POLICIES:

- More direct accountability to voters and local government by enhancing the role for cities in the process of determining transportation and transit investments.
- Prioritizing transit projects that provide all-day service, especially those that serve existing riders, promote economic development and job growth along city streets like modern streetcars and/or increased transit speed and reliability along city streets, such as enhanced bus or arterial bus rapid transit.
- Local flexibility and ease of implementation when seeking to design and implement pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety efforts unique to urban environments.
- Policies and programs that promote car sharing and electric vehicles and charging station use, development and manufacturing in Minnesota.
- Maintenance of existing state truck weight and size limits and review safety measures.
- Improving roadway safety, reducing crashes, and supporting additional design features on local roadways.
- Collaborative decision making between the state and local units of government in discussions related to autonomous or connected vehicles.
- Incorporation of local needs when considering any legislation related to automated and connected vehicles; for example, any state legislation considered should ensure that local traffic laws are followed, and that performance and safety information is freely shared.
- Harnessing emerging transportation technologies and matching technological solutions to transportation challenges to advance community goals.
- To address issues with parked unregistered vehicles, the city supports amending MN Statute 169.79 subd. 1 to require vehicle registrant, not driver, to properly display vehicle registration information and if proper registration is not displayed, the ability to ticket the vehicle.
- Establishing and supporting a regional effort to identify solutions to the lack of designated commercial truck parking.

### **Municipal and Regional Governance**

Minnesota cities have the authority to adopt policies and ordinances that are intended to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all residents and workers. Cities create local policies and ordinances within a framework of



existing federal and state laws, and in collaboration with local stakeholders, to recognize the needs, values, and priorities of individual communities.

At times, state legislation is introduced to interfere with cities' ability to address the needs of their residents. One size fits all policies adopted at a state level bypass local government and their residents. The City of Minneapolis is supportive of policies that would enhance enterprise operations, support local decision making and reduce local interference, and promote gender and racial equity in employment and contracting, including:

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

- Efforts to maintain or enhance local governance and opposes efforts by the legislature to interfere in local government decision making authority.
- Legislation that eliminates outdated or unnecessary publications and permits cities to elect alternative means such as the internet to publish notices and official proceedings.
- Authority in State Building Code to enhance and enforce local green building regulations.
- Maintain city authority to license entities and set fees that enable cities to recover full regulatory and enforcement expenses of pawnshops, massage establishments, and tattoo and piercing establishments.
- Modernizing the state law on hotel regulations pertaining to mini bars in small (boutique) hotels.
- Increasing local control on temporary liquor license restrictions.
- Legislation providing flexibility in the Municipal Contracting law to allow a city to select a software vendor whose product best matches the city's needs.
- Expanding authority for cities to establish contracts for local construction projects.
- Ensure local government ability to provide highest level of service to animals in our care and oppose efforts to place additional unnecessary and costly requirements regarding animal control.
- Rights of all people to engage in protected first amendment speech, assembly, and protest without the burden of risk of civil liability for public safety response costs.
- A strong, effective Metropolitan Council for regional cooperation and planning around transportation, land use, affordable housing, parks and open space, water resources and environmental protection and for the operation of regional services including transit and wastewater management.
- Current law providing local government authority related to Special Service Districts.
- Modifications to the Phased Retirement Option (PRO) including elimination or extension of the sunset clause of June 30, 2019.
- Increasing the state's funding for reimbursement of continued health insurance paid for officers or firefighters disabled in the line of duty.
- Decriminalization, legalization, and taxation of recreational cannabis, while ensuring the health and safety of the public, including children, expungement for past offenses, and considering ways to ensure equity and access by communities of color to potential benefits, particularly for small businesses.
- Expanding the Local Government Pay Equity Act methodology to include a race-based equity test.
- Expanding the MN Open Meeting law to incorporate the types of virtual meetings allowed at the state and expanding potential participation in the City's appointed boards and commissions.

#### BUSINESS CERTIFICATION:

- Increasing consistency and simplicity in certification standards and processes, such as the development of a single certification, or a unified certification portal, and/or simplified certification for micro businesses.
- Resources for programs and organizations including to local governments, to provide technical assistance for minority-owned businesses and those who work with minority-owned businesses to become certified minority vendors for the purpose of increasing markets for their products to government and other purchasers.
- Clear identification of certified businesses in cooperative agreements, such as through the development of a portal to find a diverse supplier.
- Policies that increase the number of certified minority-owned businesses.

## PROCUREMENT:

- Clear state goal setting that establishes meaningful and significant purchasing of environmentally friendly products, and meaningful and significant purchasing from businesses owned by women and people of color.
- Development and investment in clear strategies by the state and other government entities to proactively promote themselves as purchasers of the supplies and services provided by businesses owned by women and people of color.
- State purchasing from businesses owned by women and people of color, and the monitoring and regular reporting of funds spent.
- Development of race-neutral and gender-neutral programs and tools to expand opportunities for, and develop the capacity of, small and local businesses so that all segments of the community can participate in procurement opportunities.
- Permit cities to use the construction manager at risk procurement model for capital projects.

## ELECTIONS:

- Flexibility and authority for cities to conduct alternative election-related initiatives, including but not limited to expanded vote-by-mail, early voting, vote centers, ranked-choice voting, and uniform rules and regulations for ranked-choice voting.
- Modifying election laws to encourage greater participation in elections by non-English speaking voters, such as allowing the availability of translation services and certified interpreters in the polling place and other assistance.
- Restoring the right to vote to those who have completed a period of incarceration for a criminal conviction.
- Modifying and expanding the current pre-election day voting to early voting that includes clarification of times and voting locations, use of ballot on demand, and adjusted service hours prior to election day.
- Amending state statutes related to the city charter amendment process to clarify the definition of registered voter, ensure access to public information lists and adjust the petition form.

## DATA PRACTICES:

- Update the Minnesota Data Practices Act to modernize the public's privacy rights and better protect personally identifiable information.
- Amend the Minnesota Data Practices Act to classify employee geo-location data as private.
- Amend the Minnesota Data Practices Act to classify the rehomed location of animals, identity of the new owner and persons assisting investigators, as private.
- Support efforts to amend the Minnesota Data Practices Act Sec. 13.43, subd. 2 to make the status of complaints against a peace officer accessible to the public.

## Ensuring that the City is Safe and Livable

### Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform

Public safety is a core responsibility of local government. The City of Minneapolis supports policies that ensure a fair and equitable criminal justice system that is free of structural racism and bias and helps foster a safe and livable city. Minneapolis supports initiatives that strengthen community policing and trust among local government, law enforcement officers and the communities they protect and serve. Such policies include:

## SYSTEMIC JUSTICE

- Legislation and policies that reduce the collateral consequences for low level driving offenses, which have disparate impacts on low-income residents and people of color. Policies should work to end the cycle of amassing fines, fees and state surcharges for these offenses that push individuals deeper into poverty. Policies should instead provide opportunities for diversion and restitution that give back to communities through service, encourage safe and legal driving, and allow residents continued access to jobs and education.
- Eliminating the unnecessary collateral consequence of driver's license suspension for non-public safety related infractions.
- Legislation allowing courts the discretion to reduce or waive the state surcharge for defendants with low income.
- Making the Driver Diversion Program permanent, available throughout the state, and modifying the program to increase access to and completion of the program.
- Expand funding for restorative justice and other diversion programs.
- Legislation to allow for alternative methods to collect unpaid fines on a vehicle that has multiple unpaid parking violations.
- Legislation requiring that if a court reduces the amount paid by a violator, any reduction should be made from the surcharge and not the fine.
- Modifications to ensure that the Rules of Evidence do not apply in restitution and expungement hearings.
- Legislation to prohibit the so-called “gay panic” defense and codify that the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of the victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted nonforcible romantic or sexual advance towards the actor, or if the actor and victim dated or had a romantic or sexual relationship does not authorize use of force and is not a defense to a crime.

The City supports legislation and policies that will build trust and improve relationships between law enforcement and all communities and incorporate best practices and procedures, including:

- Directing and appropriating funds for POST Board certified professional peace officer education programs to offer classes required for peace officer certification that not only develop tactical skills but also improve social interaction skills. Such skills should include, but are not limited to, recognizing and confronting implicit bias, language and cultural responsiveness, crisis intervention, de-escalation, and fair and impartial policing and problem solving.
- Assigning priority points to applicant local law enforcement agencies applying for state public safety grant programs that (a) have written plans to engage communities to improve police-community relations and (b) provide on a regularly scheduled basis, information about stops, citations, summonses, arrests, reported crime, and other law enforcement data aggregated by demographics including race.
- Providing a stable source of revenue for state funding of peace officer training and other programs that is from the general fund and does not rely on the revenue from traffic tickets paid and state surcharge proceeds.
- Funding for peace officer wellness and safety programs.
- Defining the duties, powers and responsibilities of civilian review boards including but not limited to the authority to investigate complaints of misconduct against a peace officer.
- Allowing the Office of Police Conduct Review to be granted limited subpoena power to compel the production of documents, records and other physical evidence to improve the quality of investigations by obtaining information relevant to the allegations from entities outside the City organization.
- Establishing an independent public entity with the responsibility to investigate and adjudicate incidents of peace officer use of force that results in death or grave bodily harm of an individual.

## RESOURCES AND FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, prosecutors, public defense, communication systems, probation, the courts and victim services.
- Sufficient funding for safety net services such as mental illness and chemical dependency treatment and prevention, supportive housing, and youth homelessness prevention including culturally specific approaches for groups most heavily impacted.

- Continued funding for chronic offender and prison re-entry programs and efforts to coordinate the programs with existing opportunities, including legislation that supports the re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities through voting rights, public/private training and employment programs, mental health and chemical dependency treatment, and access to affordable housing.
- Continued and increased state financing of local costs to participate in the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) and maintaining dedicated ARMER funds without diversion to the General Fund. Such financing should include the acquisition and modernization of console and tower site equipment and subscriber equipment, such as portable and mobile radios required for ARMER users when such modernization is mandated and driven by a state timeline to comply.
- State reimbursement of costs incurred related to compensation for military leave, and overtime costs for public safety employees who fill related temporary vacancies.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY POLICIES AND COORDINATION EFFORTS:

- Creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses throughout the state.
- Protecting the human rights of immigrant populations and establishing a culture of mutual trust between law enforcement and these communities to foster greater community public safety.
- Legislation that modifies the Minnesota driver's license procedures to allow information regarding the applicant to be gathered from an identification card issued by a government other than the United States.
- Supporting the core state government function of operating state correctional facilities and opposing efforts to privatize not only all or portions of the facilities but also the establishment of private prisons and detention centers.
- Amending the existing definition of "family or household members" within the domestic violence law to clarify that it does include persons formerly involved in such a relationship.
- Supporting programming that removes financial and administrative barriers that prevent and make it difficult for permanent residents to acquire citizenship.
- Supporting efforts to decrease, by one day, the maximum sentence for low-level offenses to not trigger deportation proceedings.
- Amending MN Statute 609.2242 to increase the penalty from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor for knowingly, or having a reason to believe, a family or household member whom the defendant strangled was pregnant.
- Amending Minnesota statute 609.2247. Domestic Assault by strangulation: to define strangulation as intentionally impeding normal breathing or circulation of the blood by applying pressure on the throat or neck or by blocking the nose or mouth of another person or by impeding someone's ability to breath by laying on top of them or placing pressure on their chest or neck without using their hands.
- Amending Minnesota Statute 609.224 to make it a misdemeanor to intentionally throw or otherwise intentionally transfer bodily fluids or feces onto another person.

#### STRENGTHENING CRIMINAL CODE:

- Changing the criminal code to address chronic offenders of indecent exposure laws and allowing for enhancement to felony level offenses.
- Amending the burglary statues to make it a crime for a person to enter a building without consent and commit invasion of privacy offenses.
- Establishing a gross misdemeanor for assault against code enforcement officers while they are performing their duties.

## TRAFFIC AND DRIVING SAFETY:

- Allowing for a gross misdemeanor and increasing penalties for careless driving offense if driving conduct results in a fatality or great bodily harm.
- Establishing an aggravating factor to the driving while impaired statute for having caused an accident resulting in property damage or physical injury to another person.
- Legislation enabling cities to efficiently leverage public safety resources by allowing the use of technology such as photo enforcement systems.
- Legislation making it a crime to drive under the influence of any drug that makes a person an unsafe driver.
- Legislation that supports an enhanced penalty for driving during the revocation period resulting from an impaired driving conviction.
- Legislation that would greatly restrict scrap metal dealers from buying catalytic converters, including online dealers, and targeted enforcement actions to ensure compliance.

## DATA PRACTICES:

- Legislation classifying criminal intelligence data received from other states in the manner it was designated in that other state at the time of the request.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

- Efforts to prevent and reduce human trafficking including sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and exploitation.
- Funding for treatment, transitional housing programs, and other support services for survivors of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and exploitation.
- Efforts to end exploitation by enhancing the system to respond effectively to their needs, including sufficient resources and training for law enforcement and service providers.
- Legislation to prohibit motor carriers of passengers from allowing or permitting nude adult entertainment or consumption of alcohol by a minor to occur onboard and conditioning the renewal or maintenance of their certificates of registration with the Commissioner of Transportation upon compliance.
- Funding to increase outreach and investigation of wage-hour law violations and enforcement of wage theft.
- Supportive services for victims of human trafficking, such as emergency shelter and medical care.

## GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP:

- Legislation supporting significant gun violence prevention measures and efforts to support responsible gun ownership including:
  - The mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearms;
  - Strengthening laws regulating the transfer of firearms;
  - Requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales;
  - The prohibition of possessing replica guns in public;
  - Efforts and strategies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns; and
  - Restricting the access of illegal guns to young people.
- Prohibiting carrying a pistol with a blood-alcohol concentration of .08 or more.
- Increasing penalty to a gross misdemeanor for first time offense of carrying a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance.
- Clarifying that uninvited people and trespassers on private land may not circumvent Minnesota's permit to carry law.
- Creating a misdemeanor to refuse to submit to a chemical test if a peace officer has lawfully placed a person under arrest for carrying a pistol in public while intoxicated.

- Temporary revocation of permit to carry in certain situations such as a mental health crisis or incident of domestic violence.
- Amending state law to allow local jurisdictions to implement gun violence prevention ordinances different from state law that are appropriate to that community.
- Increasing discretionary power for local governments to grant or deny firearm permits.
- Legislation that authorizes and funds firearm safety and gun violence prevention research so that information can be gathered to best prevent firearm deaths and injuries.
- Raising the legal age for purchasing guns from 18 to 21.
- Legislation that bans the sale statewide of assault weapons, bump stocks, silencers, and extended magazines.
- The City of Minneapolis opposes legislation that undermines common sense gun violence prevention initiatives and would make our communities less safe, including:
- “Permitless carry” legislation allowing people to carry concealed, loaded guns in public without a permit or safety training.
- “Stand your ground” legislation, which expands the circumstances in which people are allowed to use deadly force, eliminates the duty to deescalate, and creates legal hurdles that make it harder to hold shooters accountable.

#### FIRE SAFETY:

- Efforts that oppose the expansion of the sale and use of fireworks.
- Support current funding for the dedicated Fire Safety Account.

### **Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention**

Secure and affordable housing is a critical foundation for stability in all other areas of life, such as employment, education, and health. Access to affordable housing is vital for the wellbeing of all residents of Minneapolis. In particular, it is critical that barriers to securing stable and affordable housing are overcome, and that racial equity gaps related to housing and homeownership are eliminated.

Recognizing that an individual’s housing needs may change over time or due to circumstance, all parts of the housing continuum are important to maintain, invest in and support. Minneapolis has adopted and implemented policies to provide lifecycle housing throughout the City.

Providing all residents with safe, quality and affordable housing is a priority in Minneapolis. In cooperation with public and private partners, the City assists in the production of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing.

In summer of 2018, the Governor’s Task Force on Housing released recommendations to increase access to safe and affordable rental housing, create more pathways to homeownership, and improve housing stability and opportunity. The recommendations aimed at achieving six goals, including: create a broader and stronger public commitment to the urgent need for more homes; keep the homes we already have, especially those that are most affordable; build 300,000 new homes by 2030; assist twice as many people at risk of losing their homes because of rent increases, evictions, and heavy cost burdens; build stronger links between where we live and the services we need; and create pathways to sustainable homeownership, with a focus on removing barriers for households of color. The City of Minneapolis is supportive of these broad goals.

To address affordable housing and issues of homelessness, the City of Minneapolis supports:

#### HOUSING POLICY:

- Efforts to secure and reoccupy vacant and abandoned properties, and stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures including increasing funding, availability, and public awareness of counseling services for homeownership and financial wellness to reduce the homeownership racial disparity gap.

- Policies and funding to increase housing security and prevent displacement of renters and homeowners such as policies to encourage acceptance of or prohibit discrimination against recipients of rental housing assistance including but not limited to Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, or policies that help preserve housing affordability for tenants, such as the state 4d Low Income Rental Classification program.
- State funding for community land trusts.
- Providing cities with additional authority related to property maintenance and upkeep.
- Continued authority to acquire properties in neighborhoods impacted by concentrated foreclosed, tax forfeited, and vacant properties.
- Policies that support long-term affordability of housing generally, including the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing.
- Expanding the Tenant Remedies Act to permit cities to seek a court appointed administrator to manage rental properties in cases where the owners have failed to comply with rental licensing standards.
- Policies that mitigate or minimize rental conversion, including encouraging homeownership, or maintaining owner occupancy of tax forfeited or foreclosed homes by current or new owner occupants.
- Improving transitions from correctional facilities, including ensuring permanent state funding for additional prison discharge planners and the creation and funding for a jail re-entry pilot project.
- Policy changes to state allocation of federal tax-exempt bonds and 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits that have broad stakeholder agreement, increase efficiency and maximization of these federal resources, and ensure that they can serve various needs on the housing continuum, including senior housing, rental housing and homeownership. The City does not support proposals that would weaken the authority of issuing jurisdictions to employ policies that maximize the use of this public investment for affordable housing purposes, such as cost reasonableness requirements.
- The City supports legislation that allows repairs to be made on distressed rental properties, that keeps renters in place and the repairs could be financed with a priority lien under a Tenant Remedies action.

#### FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION:

- Funding for programs that help improve housing stability, such as the Homeless Youth Act and Homework Starts with Home.
- Ongoing and sustainable state capital and programmatic funding and other financial incentives for affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and naturally occurring affordable housing.
- Funding for local governments and non-profits to purchase homes for owner-occupancy to help preserve affordability and increase homeownership among people of color, and additional resources for housing preservation and mortgage foreclosure programs.
- Housing Infrastructure Bonds for affordable housing and General Obligation Bonds for Public Housing Rehabilitation.
- Appropriations for Minnesota Housing and the Department of Human Services at a level significant enough to have statewide impact on creating permanent, supportive, assisted, senior, and transitional housing that serve affordable housing needs across the housing continuum and throughout the City and State.
- New, significant state investment in affordable housing resources that can leverage investments made at the local level, including but not limited to a state match for local revenue sources going into a local affordable housing trust fund, or a new state housing tax credit.
- Homelessness prevention programs, including outreach strategies.
- Funding to assist communities with meeting obligations to reduce barriers to and promote fair housing and equal opportunity.
- Incentives for multi-family property owners to participate in the Section 8 housing choice voucher program.
- Funding and policy that would help reduce evictions filed due to non-payment of rent and efforts that would slow the evictions process to provide more opportunity to prevent evictions from being filed.
- Strategies to reduce the impact of eviction filings on future housing opportunities.

## City Livability and Community Wellbeing

City livability is a critical component to ensuring that Minneapolis residents live well. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, local public health has been on the frontline providing tests, contact tracing, food access, and other necessary roles to combat the impacts of the virus on our communities. From policies that aim to promote health and advance equity, to strengthening investments in our youth, Minneapolis supports a variety of policies that ensure Minneapolis is a safe, livable, healthy, accessible, and welcoming city for all to live, work, and play:

### GENERAL CITY LIVABILITY:

- Efforts to support statewide aviation planning and coordination to diversify air traffic and maximize the efficient use of aviation resources throughout the state.
- Policies and tools to prevent, reduce, or mitigate noise and health impacts to airport adjacent communities.
- Efforts to increase the monitoring of air quality in the City of Minneapolis, investigation of the causes of negative human health and environmental impacts caused by poor air quality, and solutions to those impacts, especially focusing on environmental justice.
- Legislation to expand access to the medicinal use of cannabis for authorized individuals with a debilitating medical condition.
- Amending the trespass statute to clarify that an individual may not enter a property after being told to “stay away” from the property, as opposed to being told to “leave” the property.
- The ability of cities of the first class to define “junk vehicles” in ordinance in a manner that may differ from state statute, for the purposes of towing inoperable vehicles.”

### EQUITABLE ACCESS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:

- Legislation that strengthens the goals of the Human Rights Act of securing freedom from discrimination in public accommodations, housing, employment, and education because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, and disability status, and without regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or age.
- Legislation which supports transgender residents who are disproportionately subject to discrimination and harassment and experience disparities in the delivery of services including healthcare, education, employment and housing. The City supports policies which affirm the right of individuals to participate in public and private accommodation in a manner consistent with their gender identity.
- Legislation that respects an individual’s right to define their gender identity, rectifies inconsistent laws, and promotes an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

### BUILDING ECONOMIC SECURITY:

- Policies that reduce access to and use of credit information and criminal records by employers, including mandated notification to job applicants of access to credit and criminal background check reports.
- Legislation that increases the state minimum wage or enhances the current minimum wage laws.
- Increasing funding for programs that provide basic economic assistance for low-income workers and families.
- Repealing the \$50 offset for households living in public or rent subsidized housing and receiving financial assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
- State legislation that expands access to employee benefits including paid family and medical leave and earned safe and sick time, including state support for employers to comply with such policies.

### YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

- Increasing state resources to fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence and associated risk and protective factors.
- Funding for the Youth Violence Prevention Act of 2009.



## PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING AND POLICY:

- Maintaining funding to community health boards for the Statewide Health Improvement Program.
- Increasing funding for Local Public Health Grants.
- Increasing funding for emergency preparedness and response including public health.
- Funding for and use of Health Impact Assessments.
- Comprehensive coverage through Minnesota's health care programs (MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance) for primary and preventative care that includes physical health, mental health, substance abuse, dental services, family planning, assuring access to coverage for contraceptives and other medications, and quality interpreter and translation services.
- Expanding funding and reimbursement for services not currently covered by Minnesota's health care programs, such as public health efforts related to promoting reduction of childhood obesity, mitigation of asthma, and lead poisoning prevention and reduction.
- Improvements to reimbursement rates for all non-hospital health care providers that include considerations such as inflation rate inclusion and reduction or elimination of the reimbursement lag for providers.
- Effective, culturally appropriate prevention and treatment interventions for opioid use with funding for programs that have a long-term focus, behavioral health resources and support for housing services.
- Funding for naloxone (Narcan) availability and distribution, and statewide training for public safety personnel.
- Assuring that the annual fee paid by drug manufacturers established in the 2019 omnibus opioids bill fund state and local substance abuse prevention, treatment and other intervention efforts that address the root causes of the opioid crisis.
- New and sustainable funding for programs funded by the Health Care Access Fund.
- Support for sustainable funding for local public health preparedness infrastructure and the ability for local public health agencies to receive disaggregated public health data to better allow for targeted prevention and treatment.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN:

- Sustaining the minor's consent law permitting adolescents to see medical providers for confidential reproductive, mental health, and chemical dependency services.
- Policies to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles, such as strengthening physical and health education curriculum in schools, funding for programs such as Farm to School to increase distribution of fresh foods in schools, and policies that encourage the reduced consumption of sweetened drinks and food.
- Policies and programs that increase the number of children who can bike and walk to school safely.
- Increasing funding for pre-school developmental and health screening.
- Policies that identify and replace toxic chemicals in children's products with safer alternatives.
- Programs and funding that promote youth tobacco control and prevent and eliminate youth tobacco use.
- Increased funding for family home visiting services, and increased reimbursement rates for home visits.
- Expansion of early learning funding to improve kindergarten readiness, such as scholarships and other efforts to improve early learning.
- Early intervention eligibility for young homeless children.
- Policy and fiscal support for changes to the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Defining school-based health care and increasing state funding for school-based health care.
- Legislation expanding state statute beyond education around HIV/AIDS to also address components of comprehensive sexuality education.
- Increased funding for youth development, early intervention, out-of-school time, and mentoring opportunities.
- Supporting multijurisdictional efforts to allow local units of government to serve as a custodian of a college savings account and remove barriers that would count cash transfers against a household income.
- Supporting legislative actions to ban conversion therapy of minors.

## ELIMINATING HEALTH DISPARITIES AND CLOSING THE HEALTH EQUITY GAP:

- Policies and funding aimed at enhancing health equity and preventing and reducing health disparities in Minnesota.
- Expanding health care access, including culturally relevant health care, and resources to help low-income persons obtain health care coverage and health services.
- Increased state funding for HIV and STD prevention and control, including Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) strategies.
- Opposition to efforts to further restrict access to health care programs for undocumented persons.
- Efforts to eliminate infant mortality, including reinstating the legislative authority to conduct infant mortality reviews for infant deaths in communities of color, which sunsetted in 2001.
- Expanding funding for Healthy Homes that seeks to reduce asthma triggers, and other indoor environmental health concerns.

## Creating Great Natural and Built Places in Minneapolis

### Environmental Protection and Sustainability

Environmental protection and sustainability efforts are important for the vitality of our future. It is critical to have policies and funding in place aimed at analyzing cumulative environmental and social impacts, reducing disproportional burden of impact on lower income communities and communities of color, and increasing equitable access to and utilization of environmentally focused programs. The City partners with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to provide resources to implement policies. Minneapolis supports robust environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality, including:

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE PROTECTION POLICIES:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives that require manufacturers to finance the costs of collecting, reusing, recycling, or safe disposal of their products such as carpets, mattresses, electronics
- Support the Right to Repair legislation.
- Legislation that is intended to protect and preserve the state's drinking water resources.
- State efforts to collect more accurate solid waste data, including Minneapolis-specific data.
- The development of zero-waste initiatives that involve stakeholders in the expansion of strategies and incentives to manage all discarded materials to their highest and best use according to the waste management hierarchy set forth in the Waste Management Act that will help local units of government reach recycling and composting goals.
- Preserving local government ability to establish or modify organized waste collection services.
- Policies and incentives that promote healthy, sustainable products and processes.
- Legislation that has the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy efficiency goals and activities by investor owned utilities.
- Legislation that increases distributed generation technologies, such as solar photovoltaic, solar thermal production, wind, combined heat and power for both public and private entities.
- Increasing the State's Renewable Energy Standard.
- Legislation that encourages state and local governments to adopt policies and plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including land use planning and transportation investments.
- Legislation directing state energy efficiency and renewable energy goals to be incorporated in local municipal energy franchise agreements.
- Efforts to prepare for the impacts of climate change on infrastructure, natural systems, and human health.
- Robust environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality, including proactive measures to reduce carbon emissions, and opposition to mechanisms designed to maintain existing nuclear power plants – or reclassify existing plants as “carbon reduction facilities” – while raising electricity customers' bills outside of the normal rate case.
- Legislation and administrative rule changes that facilitate and encourage composting and organics collection and processing.

- Support efforts to set a uniform standard and create a path for cities to enhance energy efficiency and meet greenhouse gas reduction goals for multi-family buildings of four stories or more.
- Legislation to modernize and expand Minnesota’s Conservation Improvement Programs administered by energy utilities.
- Legislation and administrative rule changes that classify energy sources from garbage incineration as non-renewable energy sources.

#### STATE FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

- Increasing state funding to local governments for rehabilitation of existing storm water, drinking water, and wastewater infrastructure.
- Increasing state funding to local governments for storm water infrastructure, particularly projects necessitated by an “impaired waters” finding or new regulatory mandate, beneficial for flood mitigation, or to advance green infrastructure.
- Grants and other financial resources for investments beneficial to inflow and infiltration reduction, to minimize the risk of combined sewer overflows, or to respond to regulatory mandates.
- State allocation of 100% of revenue generated by the solid waste management tax (SCORE) to County waste management activities to be used toward efforts to advance waste reduction, reuse, recycling and organics programs to meet city, county and state recycling goals.
- State funding for research and training for public and private applicators of chloride-containing de-icing chemicals, and legislation to address liability concerns of private deicing salt applicators.
- Funding and policies that increase access for homeowners and building owners to new energy efficiency options.
- Funding or incentives for market development activities that encourage manufacturing businesses which produce recyclable materials to operate in the state.

#### AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY POLICIES:

- Increased funding to incentivize tree planting diversification, removal, and maintenance.
- Research on methods, including insecticides, to treat Emerald Ash Borer to determine effectiveness and impacts on human health and environment.
- Research and resources to support environmentally friendly Emerald Ash Borer control methods.
- Legislation that enables and incentivizes food to be grown, processed, distributed and composted locally.
- Reducing regulatory barriers and removing ambiguity in regulations related to retail food inspections.
- Increasing access to healthy food for low-income households.
- Maintaining constitutionally dedicated conservation funds.
- Legislation that provides cities of the first class limited authority to impose reasonable restrictions on the use of pesticides.
- Require pesticides sold in Minnesota to indicate if they are pollinator friendly.
- Policies, programs, and research that protect the health of pollinators and provide vital information, including information about pesticides and insecticide application, to growers and consumers.
- Health study of synthetic turf and crumb rubber, including a comparable analysis of alternatives.
- Research to address the spread of aquatic invasive species, such as Invasive Carp, Milfoil, and Zebra Mussels.

## **Making Minneapolis a Hub for Economic Activity and Innovation**

Strong state policies and financial resources can help to prevent and reduce racial disparities in employment, produce equitable job growth, assist local businesses and businesses owned by women and people of color, and empower local governments to take advantage of economic development opportunities. To ensure that residents prosper, and businesses of all sizes start, move, stay, and grow here, the City supports furthering efforts to strengthen redevelopment, economic development, and business development opportunities.

### **Redevelopment, Economic Development, and Business Development**

Minneapolis supports state financial investment and policy modifications to enhance redevelopment, economic development, and infrastructure improvements for cities, including:

#### **REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

- Increasing funding and flexibility for the state’s Redevelopment Fund.
- Increasing funding for the Brownfield Clean-up program.
- Targeted funding and policies to encourage property owners to preserve and improve aging properties.
- Authorizing the transfer of the proceeds of the contamination tax to the Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grant account.
- Continuation of the Livable Communities Act programs.
- Increasing funding for the Minnesota Historical Society’s Historical and Cultural Grant Program.
- Amending eminent domain statute in response to the Minnesota Supreme Court decision holding that the fair market value of contaminated property in a condemnation proceeding is the value of the property as if the contamination had already been remediated.
- A Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) program that emphasizes equity, simplification, and lower rates.
- Changes to the SAC program so that fees are better based on the need of those paying into the system for their corresponding capacity.
- A comprehensive and long-range study of the overall SAC program and structure.
- Limiting the imposition of SAC for outdoor seating at an eating or drinking establishment to only those additions or expansion that increase the number of restrooms or connections to the sanitary sewer system or increase the capacity of the establishment’s sanitary sewer pipes.

#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:**

- Funding for outreach and technical assistance, including funding for local governments, to increase the number and the growth of businesses owned by women and people of color.
- Funding for programs and organizations including local governments, to provide financial and business development resources, and increased access to financial and knowledge-based capital, to businesses owned by women and people of color, to assist with building capacity and improving management systems.
- State review and recommendations regarding elimination of unnecessary barriers to businesses owned by women and people of color, women entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs of color.

### **Jobs and Workforce Development**

- The City of Minneapolis utilizes local, state, and federal resources to operate a jobs and training program that assists youth and adults in obtaining jobs skills and employment. Minneapolis supports job and workforce development policy and funding, including:
- Increased funding for youth employment programs, including the Minnesota Youth Program and Youth at Work to ensure that youth, especially low-income youth and youth of color, in Minneapolis and across the state have access to vital employment opportunities that create pathways for successful careers.

- Creating a pool of formula-based direct appropriations for adult job training and employment programs, allocated through local Workforce Development Boards.
- Legislation that prohibits employers from practicing discriminatory and unfair hiring practices.
- State and federal workforce funding and policies to support employing at-risk youth, and youth and adults reentering the community from the criminal justice system.
- Establishing workforce and business inclusion goals for state franchise agreement holders to create increased employment and business opportunities for women and communities of color.
- Creating a statewide portal for internship opportunities for youth.
- Reviewing and expanding the state's apprenticeship certification process to allow for increased inclusion of new positions.
- State legislation that establishes a uniform contract threshold for the state and local governments.
- Legislation creating employment and contracting guidance for state capital projects regarding the recruitment, training and engagement of individuals and companies from communities experiencing high rates of unemployment, including from communities of color.
- Government employment pathways that provide multiple points of entry for youth and experienced workers and experiences to access public employment.
- Legislation that establishes, strengthens, or promotes protections in state law to ensure health, safety, and equity in a workplace environment.
- Working with East Phillips residents to secure state funding for a community re-development and green jobs project in the South Minneapolis Green Zone on a portion of the former Roof Depot site not required for municipal operations, which the city purchased to expand the existing Hiawatha campus to include the City's water facility located at 1680 E 28th St and 2717 Longfellow Ave.