

November 9, 2020

Meet on the Street

Jeanelle Austin
Marcia Howard
Madi Ramirez-Tentinger

Dear Jeanelle, Marcia and Madi,

We write today to continue our dialogue about racial justice and the intersection of 38th and Chicago. In September of 2020, we provided an initial response to the Justice Resolution. This first letter responded to the specific demands made in your resolution with a listing of the City's investments in the areas you outlined. Below is a list of actions and investments the City has and is continuing to undertake related to the Justice Resolution:

- The City has adopted a Truth and Reconciliation Process, which creates the necessary space for conversations so the City and community can work collectively to name and examine the harm of structural racism as a result of City policy and practice, while also taking the necessary reparative steps to address that harm. The Mayor's proposed 2021 budget has \$300,000 of funding designated for the Division of Race and Equity to guide the work, of which half is centered around 38th and Chicago. This funding is in addition to ReCAST grant dollars also dedicated to this work.
- The City Council passed a resolution declaring racism a public health emergency and has committed to a series of action steps to dedicate more resources to racial equity work. The recent presidential election will result in increased federal funding opportunities, both for COVID-19 and longer-term work.
- The revised 2020 City budget includes \$100,000 to support initial community engagement in the co-creation of a vision for a permanent memorial for Mr. George Floyd and \$150,000 for the Creative City Making program to hire a diverse team of artists and healers to create, implement, and lead community engagement processes to guide the City's community healing and rebuild with racial equity efforts for areas most impacted by civil unrest.
- In addition to the \$1 million of job training dollars outlined in our last letter, the City has made more direct progress in redirecting sustainability office dollars for green jobs training at Sabathani Community Center (similar to an established program in North Minneapolis).
- The Mayor is proposing to increase funding for a new Rebuild Resilient program that provides over \$1 million for energy improvements to properties impacted by the civil unrest.
- The Minneapolis Forward/Community Now Coalition is helping to direct funding to Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) owned businesses, including a City infusion of over \$5 million to the Commercial Property Development Fund for this purpose.
- The City continues to explore resources including \$182,000 of funding available now from the One Minneapolis Fund through the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations for "Undoing Racism" training.

- The City Council adopted an ordinance establishing 38th Street as one of seven Cultural Districts. As [outlined in Minneapolis 2040](#), the City's Comprehensive Plan, the goal of Cultural Districts is to advance racial equity, prevent displacement, preserve cultural identity, and fuel economic growth in areas with a rich sense of cultural and/or linguistic identity rooted in communities significantly populated by people of color, indigenous people, and/or immigrants (POCII). The ordinance allows the City to prioritize these areas in the establishment of tools and deployment of resources.
- The City is preparing to adopt the 38th Street Thrive Plan, prepared together with community that sets a vision for 38th Street.
- The City Council has approved adding the commemorative street name of George Perry Floyd Jr. Place to Chicago Avenue between 37th Street East and 39th Street East to honor Mr. George Floyd.
- The City will accelerate funding to reconstruct the street and intersection to build the community vision in conjunction with the [Metro D-Line bus-rapid transit project](#).

There are many items in the Justice Resolution relating to other jurisdictions that we as City officials are not able to make happen. I think we all agree restorative work will require other partners and we commit to participating in those inter-governmental discussions.

Within Council Vice President Jenkin's companion letter are additional ways in which the City is codifying our commitment to the long-term work needed to reverse racial disparity trends, including the City's first Strategic and Racial Equity Action Plan.

Many in the community have worked for years to bring vitality to the neighborhood at the intersection of 38th and Chicago. The continued full closure of the street is harming local business, and some may not be able to survive much longer under the current conditions. Many residents, while supportive of creating space for the memorial, would also like to see the neighborhoods reconnected. We take very seriously our responsibility to provide city services to all of our residents and businesses; including clearing snow, removing solid waste and recycling, and ensuring emergency vehicle access.

This fall we have been working on plans in a very public manner through council meetings and community surveys that would preserve space in the street for memorialization, grieving, visitation, protest, or other community uses; and would also re-connect neighborhoods, re-establish transit service, and ensure city services. We remain hopeful the commitment to racial justice as expressed in this letter, and in the previous and separate communications, will encourage us to work together towards an interim winter design. Moving forward, the City would like to establish a committed partnership to develop these plans in collaboration with the 38th & Chicago community.

We have been encouraged by the open communication that has been occurring between us and hope to hear back from you by Thursday, November 13th on your thoughts and commitment to a mutually agreeable partnership moving forward. We know the path ahead will take work and investment, and we are committed to collaborating for the benefit of community.

With respect,





Mayor Jacob Frey, Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins, and Council Member Alondra Cano

Cc: Mark Ruff, Robin Hutcherson, Abdi Salah