



**WHEREAS**, the City of Saint Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development budget, as adopted by the Saint Paul City Council, allocated \$10,000,000 over a period of three years and \$2,000,000 annually beginning in 2019 to the Housing Trust Fund to create new affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing, and protect the quality of affordable housing in Saint Paul; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council has found that the Twin Cities Metro area demonstrates some of the largest racial and ethnic disparities in the country in terms of poverty, homeownership, employment, and level of education; and

**WHEREAS**, HRA staff recognizes the burden of financial instability falls disproportionately upon communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, HRA staff identified downpayment assistance as a means to increase affordability and resources available to low-income residents in the City that will build financial stability amidst ongoing neighborhood investment; and

**WHEREAS**, a downpayment assistance program will expand homeownership opportunities in traditionally affordable neighborhoods and promote economic integration; and

**WHEREAS**, the HRA, through Resolution 19-1970, adopted Downpayment Assistance Guidelines to establish baseline considerations and guidance for implementation of the Downpayment Assistance Program; and

**WHEREAS**, HRA staff have conducted research and analysis of similar programs across the region and determined that changes to the Downpayment Assistance Guidelines are needed to better achieve the program goals of expanding homeownership opportunities to people with lower incomes, act as a wealth building tool, address the homeownership gap, and mitigate displacement pressures; and

**WHEREAS**, the Yorth group, in a report prepared for Reconnect Rondo, found that over 700 homes were lost to the construction of Interstate 94 in the 1950s; and

**WHEREAS**, descendants of property owners who had property taken for the construction of Interstate 94 did not benefit from the generational wealth and economic mobility that is a key benefit of homeownership; and

**WHEREAS**, additional downpayment assistance for direct descendants of property owners who had property taken for the construction of Interstate 94 has been identified as a way to mitigate that lost generational wealth and economic mobility.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota that:

1. The HRA Board of Commissioners finds that a Downpayment Assistance Program is necessary within the geographic areas set forth in the amended Downpayment Assistance Program Guidelines presented by HRA staff.

2. The HRA Board of Commissioners finds that the Downpayment Assistance Program as set forth in the Downpayment Assistance Program Guidelines presented by HRA staff will achieve the program goals of expanding homeownership opportunities to people with lower incomes, act as a wealth building tool, address the homeownership gap, and mitigate displacement pressures.

3. The HRA Board of Commissioners finds that the Downpayment Assistance Program as set forth in the Downpayment Assistance Program Guidelines presented by HRA staff will also meet the program goal of replacing some of the wealth lost to descendants of property owners that lost property in the construction of Interstate 94.

4. The HRA Board of Commissioners hereby approves the amended Down Payment Assistance Program Guidelines as presented by HRA staff.

5. ~~The HRA Board of Commissioners approves the allocation of \$2,000,000.00 from the Housing Trust Fund for the expenses as described in the staff report~~

6. The HRA Executive Director, staff, and legal counsel for the HRA are further directed and authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution, and to amend the Guidelines as necessary, so long as the amendments are consistent with the intent of this Resolution.