



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Melvin W. Carter III, Mayor



Neighborhood STAR Program

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor Carter
Council President Brendmoen
Members of the City Council

FROM: Derek Anders-Turner, Chair *DAT*
Neighborhood STAR Board

DATE: September 13, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 NEIGHBORHOOD STAR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM

Background

On September 11, 2019, the Neighborhood STAR Board reviewed three (3) proposals requesting grant funding through the Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program. First was a proposal from *Springer Collections Inc.* requesting \$40,000 for their Job Creation Project. A match of \$0 was pledged to this initiative. Next, was a \$10,000 proposal from *District 6 Community Council* for the purchase and installation of barricades at Western and Maryland Avenues. Matching funds pledged to this proposal equaled \$0. Finally, a \$15,000 grant request from *MEK Properties Limited Partnership* to develop design plans to update the My Thrift Parking Lot on Rice and Larpenteur. Matching funds of \$15,000 were pledged to this initiative.

Presentations

Timothy Murray, CEO of Springer Collections, Inc. presented their proposal for leasehold improvements to the third floor of 713 Minnehaha Avenue to house their expanding business. The lease, once finalized, will be for a minimum of seven years. Plans are to add 12 new employees over the next six-month period.

Next, Kerry Antrim, Executive Director of District 6 Community Council, presented their proposal to provide attractive, traffic calming measures at the three-way intersection of Western and Maryland Avenues with the installation of three concrete barriers on the north side of Maryland Avenue. Once installed, these barriers will make this intersection safer for pedestrians and area homes with the containment of all vehicle traffic to the roadway.

Finally, Kim O'Brien, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce presented a proposal on behalf of MEK Properties for design and planning fees associated with the renewal of the parking lot on the southwest corner of Larpenteur Avenue and Rice Street. Their vision is to add landscaping elements and new sidewalks when the parking lot is resurfaced and restriped to create an attractive, safer corner. Project work is planned to begin in the spring of 2020 with a \$320,000 grant through the City of Saint Paul's Commercial Vitality Zone sales tax program.

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Discussion and Recommendations

Although STAR Board Members were supportive of proposed activities, they were unable to recommend funding for proposals received from Springer Collections and the District 6 Community Council due to City Council-approved Neighborhood STAR Guidelines requiring grant funds be matched on a minimum \$1 for \$1 with non-city resources. In addition, members were unable to recommend funding for design fees at Rice and Larpenteur due to STAR Guidelines limiting project soft costs to twenty percent of total STAR dollars awarded.

Rating

The Neighborhood STAR Board rated the Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program proposals on their own merit on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) with the following results:

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Loan</u>	<u>Match</u>
4.8	Western & Maryland Barriers	5	\$10,000	\$0	\$ 0
4.6	Rice Larpenteur Parking Lot Design	5	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
3.8	Springer Collections Job Creation	6	\$40,000	\$0	\$ 0

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have questions, or if staff can provide additional information, please contact:

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CC: MEK Properties
St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
District 6 Community Council
Springer Collections

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