



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin W. Carter III, Mayor




Neighborhood STAR Program
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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lucie Passus, Chair 
Neighborhood STAR Board

DATE: January 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Request for Neighborhood STAR Funding Change

Background

In 2015, The Oromo Community of Minnesota (OCM) was awarded a \$35,000 grant through the Neighborhood STAR Program for kitchen upgrades. When completed, the project would allow the center to prepare hot meals for youth and elders, provide certified commercial space for cooking classes and allow the OCM community to generate revenue by renting the kitchen and community space to outside events. Matching funds of \$35,000 were pledged to this initiative. Out of the 57 proposals received in 2015, the Oromo community kitchen project was ranked #12 out of the 16 projects recommended for funding.

Presentation

On January 10, 2018, Jemal Tufe, Executive Director, Oromo Community of Minnesota and Girma Hassan, Employment Counselor & Community Outreach Specialist presented their request to change the use of their 2015 STAR award to instead update the building's electrical system and replace the front entrance door, boiler and air conditioning unit. The \$113,885 estimate for these items are more affordable for the organization to cover at this time versus the estimate for the kitchen upgrades being in excess \$150,000.

Recommendation

After considerable discussion, the STAR Board voted to recommend the change in use of STAR dollars as requested.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have questions, or if staff can provide you with additional information, please call: Michele Swanson, x66574 or Austria Castillo, x66691

CC: Oromo Community of Minnesota

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