



Legislation Text

File #: RES PH 17-309, **Version:** 1

Authorizing the acceptance of \$25,000 in United States Department of the Interior Certified Local Government Grant funds from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete a Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey of the Hamline-Midway Neighborhood, and amending the 2017 budget.

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, (NHPA) established a strong federal policy favoring the preservation of properties and sites which have been significant in American history for the public's benefit; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, at Minn. Stat. 471.193, Subd. 1, has declared that it is the policy of the state to enable local units of government to engage in a comprehensive program of historic preservation and to promote the use and conservation of historical, architectural, archeological, engineering, and cultural heritage sites in the State for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of the citizens of the State through the creation of local heritage preservation commissions; and

WHEREAS, MN Statutes 471.193, Subd. 3, further declares that the powers of heritage preservation commissions may be for the survey and designation of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are of historical, architectural, archaeological, engineering, or cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, the City, at Leg. Code 73.01, has declared that it is the policy of the City that the preservation, protection, perpetuation, and use of areas, places, buildings, structures, and other objects having a special historical, community, or aesthetic interest or value, is a public necessity and in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people, including safe-guarding the heritage of the city by preserving sites and structures which reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, or architectural history, and authorizes the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) to conduct a continuing survey of all areas, places, buildings, structures, or similar objects in the city which the HPC, on the basis of information available or presented to it has reason to believe are or will be eligible for designation as heritage preservation sites; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan identifies seven strategies to guide historic preservation efforts and the policies to implement them, and Strategy HP 3.1 states the City should implement an ongoing survey program to identify and evaluate all types of historic resources in Saint Paul and Strategy HP 3.7 states the City should systematically and comprehensive identify historic resources, giving highest priority to areas facing development pressure; and

WHEREAS, the last time this neighborhood was comprehensively surveyed was in 1983, and while useful at the time, the survey information is now outdated and not adequate for use as part of an effective historic preservation planning strategy or for making informed land use decisions. In 1983, only one site, Hamline University Hall, was designated locally and 23 sites were highlighted as being eligible for designation or having major significance. Only two of the 23 sites have been locally designated since 1983. It is also anticipated there are sites that were not evaluated in 1983 that would now be identified as historic resources in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Historical Society has awarded a \$25,000 CLG grant to the City of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, pursuant to Section 10.07.1 of the Charter of the City of Saint Paul, does hereby certify that \$25,000 in funds are available for appropriation in excess of those estimated in the 2017 budget and recommends the changes to the 2017 budget identified on Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the City will indemnify, save and hold the Minnesota Historical Society ("MNHS") and the United States Department of the Interior ("Interior"), its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the MNHS and Interior arising from the performance of this agreement by the City or the City's agents or employees only to the maximum limits of its municipal tort liability limits set forth in Minnesota Statute 466.01 et seq. and any indemnifications made by the City under this Agreement are accordingly governed and limited. This indemnification shall not be construed as a waiver of the municipal tort liability limits set forth in Minnesota Statute 466.01 et seq. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the City may have for the MNHS' or Interior's failure to fulfill its obligations under this agreement; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Saint Paul accepts the CLG grant, approves the changes identified on Attachment A to the 2017 budget and authorizes PED to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Historical Society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Council of the City of Saint Paul wish to recognize the Minnesota State Historical Society for its ongoing preservation work, and thank the Society for their generous assistance.