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## **Minneapolis City Council passes landmark resolution supporting “investments in public housing and the people who live there.”**

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 7 – The Minneapolis City Council, with support from Mayor Jacob Frey, today unanimously passed a resolution “establishing guiding principles in support of investments in public housing and the people who live there.” The resolution was authored by Council Member Abdi Warsame (Ward 6) and Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins (Ward 8).

The resolution affirms the critical role public housing plays in the city’s housing landscape, and notes the challenges created by decades of federal underfunding. It expresses the need for the city and MPHA to work in partnership to preserve MPHA’s 6,000 units of public housing with new funding sources and programs. And it defines the protections all public housing residents deserve during this process.

“This resolution makes a powerful statement, and it comes at a critical time,” says MPHA Executive Director Greg Russ. “Public housing provides homes for more than 10,000 of the lowest-income people in the city. Their well-being matters to the whole community, but we’re in real danger of losing these homes over time if we don’t all pull together. This resolution recognizes that we are in this as a team.”

“This is centered on the individuals – our residents, the actual people who live in Minneapolis Public Housing,” says Council Member Warsame. “Senior citizens, immigrants, people with disabilities—the most vulnerable members of our society. They deserve as much protection as possible. Most of these protections are already there at the federal level. But we wanted to make sure they are articulated in a way that is simple, direct, and comes from the city council.”

These protections embodied in the resolution include the right to return to any remodeled or redeveloped property, the right to receive written relocation plans, and the right not to experience rent increases because of redevelopment or improvements. Any preservation and development strategies will also include meaningful resident and community consultation.

The resolution also supports MPHA’s efforts to “stabilize and increase its funding sources” through federal programs such as the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) and Section 18. “If we go with conversion, that gives us more stability and access to funds,” says Mary McGovern, MPHA resident and President of the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council (MHRC). “We already don’t have enough affordable housing for people who need it in this city. These buildings that we do have—we absolutely have to preserve so they are here for another 50 years.” # # #

*The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority manages 6,000 units of public housing and 5,000 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, serving more than 26,000 people in Minneapolis. Our mission is to promote and deliver quality, well-managed homes to a diverse low-income population and, with partners, contribute to the well-being of the individuals, families, and community we serve.*

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