



Minneapolis City Council
Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey
Board of Estimate & Taxation Members
City Hall
350 S. Fifth St., Room 331
Minneapolis, MN 55415

July 26, 2023

Dear Minneapolis City Council, Mayor Jacob Frey, and Board of Estimate & Taxation Members,

We are writing to support the passing of a public housing tax levy to fund public housing in the city. Every Minnesotan deserves a safe and affordable place they can call home. With evictions skyrocketing, homelessness increasing, home ownership gaps widening, and a severe shortage of affordable homes to rent or own, it is time for bold action.

An annual levy approved over a 20-year period would deliver an estimated \$240 million toward preserving the city's public housing portfolio. With a long-term funding commitment, Minneapolis Public Housing Association (MPHA) could more efficiently and effectively plan for projects and leverage the funding in a variety of ways.

This funding would greatly support the efforts that our state government has made to fund public housing. The sustained decrease in public housing funding from all levels of government means that state and local governments must step up to protect our residents. In this year's historic housing package, we included \$15 million in funding for public housing, with \$5 million dedicated to Minneapolis Public Housing. The state of Minnesota has decided and will continue to find areas to support public housing in Minneapolis. We are glad to see the city indicate its willingness to meet us in that effort.

Levy funding can be used to leverage and generate significant additional funding for projects when coupled with other debt and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. An increased levy fund for public housing will allow for a significant decrease in the current MPHA backlog on public housing needs.

We support efforts by the Board of Estimates and Taxation members to help fully fund public housing through a 20-year, \$200 million tax levy to address the inequities Minneapolis residents face. We look forward to continuing to work with the city on securing additional state funds for public housing to support our shared residents.

Sincerely,



Rep. Esther Agbaje
District 59B



Rep. Aisha Gomez
District 62A



Rep. Emma Greenman
District 63B



Rep. Hodan Hassan
District 62A



Rep. Frank Hornstein
District 61A



Rep. Michael Howard
District 51A



Rep. Sydney Jordan
District 60A



Rep. Fue Lee
District 59A



Rep. Mohamud Noor
District 60B



Rep. Samantha Sencer-Mura
District 63A