



ANOKA COUNTY Regional Economic Development

To: St. Francis City Council
From: Gregory Frahm-Gilles, Anoka County Director of Economic Development
Date: November 13, 2023
RE: Anoka County Regional Economic Development (ACRED) MOU Extension

The Anoka County Regional Economic Development (ACRED) Partnership is a collective of all 21 Anoka County municipalities to provide regional economic development services. This partnership was established in January 2019 through the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that all communities in Anoka County signed onto.

The key objective for ACRED is to provide regional economic development support to all 21 municipalities, helping each community bring their own unique economic development visions to fruition. The three core areas of emphasis include:

- **REGIONALISM:** Economic activity in one community extends into nearby communities. Economic challenges are often not limited to jurisdictional boundaries, too. Regionalism promotes collaboration amongst all municipalities on economic development opportunities to share ideas, best practices and networks. Challenges impacting many municipalities can be worked on together.
- **MARKETING:** Promote Anoka County as a region ripe for investment. Share Anoka County opportunities with real estate brokers, investors, developers and businesses looking at growth or relocation.
- **READINESS:** Create future opportunity by helping cities bring key development sites to market. Connect cities with available programs or contacts to assist in development, redevelopment or infill projects. Share best practices and data to position communities for future investment and help support resilient local economies.

The original 2019 MOU is set to expire in January 2024, with that original MOU providing guidance that a new MOU should be established at that time. However, ACRED is currently involved with two major efforts that will help shape future objectives – (1) a county-wide housing study, and (2) an updated organizational strategic plan. Given that these efforts are still pending, the ACRED Executive Committee felt that a 12-month extension on the existing MOU was justified to let those initiatives be completed first, then a more robust conversation on future priorities and MOU can happen in 2024.

The MOU amendment document presented for Council consideration simply extends the same terms of the original MOU out another 12-months. The new MOU expiration date will be January 10, 2025.



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While staffing expenses are covered by Anoka County, the operating budget for ACRED is split between all municipalities on a per capita basis at a rate of \$0.057 per resident. The City of St. Francis' 2023 contribution to ACRED was \$473, based on a population of 8292 residents.

ACTION REQUESTED:

- Consideration and approval of the 12-month extension to the existing ACRED Memorandum of Understanding, revising the MOU expiration date to be January 10th, 2025.