

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MINNEAPOLIS
TESTIMONY BY
PETER RODOSOVICH, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PROPOSED ANNUAL STREET LIGHTING PROJECT NUMBER
1337L AND RELATED ASSESSMENTS AND PROPOSED ANNUAL STREET MAINTENANCE
PROJECT NUMBER 1337M – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

GOOD MORNING,

MY NAME IS PETER RODOSOVICH AND I AM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN MINNEAPOLIS, 30 SOUTH 9TH
STREET, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402.

THE YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MINNEAPOLIS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION – IN IT'S 143RD
YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE MINNEAPOLIS METROPOLITAN AREA.

OUR MISSION IS TO DEVELOP THE TOTAL PERSON -- SPIRIT, MIND AND BODY THROUGH
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS -- THAT BUILD STRONG KIDS, STRONG FAMILIES
AND STRONG COMMUNITIES.

WE HAVE 10 FULL FACILITY BRANCHES, 4 COMMUNITY BRANCHES, 4 OVERNIGHT CAMPS,
AND 5 DAY CAMPS.

5 OF OUR FACILITIES ARE WITHIN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS AND DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY
THE PROPOSED STREET LIGHTING PROJECT NUMBER 1337L AND THE STREET MAINTENANCE
PROJECT NUMBER 1337M.

I AM TESTIFYING TODAY TO EXPRESS OUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO BOTH PROPOSED
ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS TO FIVE MINNEAPOLIS YMCA TAX EXEMPT PARCELS IN THE CITY OF
MINNEAPOLIS.

I AM JOINED BY STAFF AND VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

- BLAISDELL & HIAWATHA YMCA BRANCHES LOCATED IN SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS
- DOWNTOWN YMCA LOCATED AT 30 SOUTH 9TH STREET
- NORTH COMMUNITY YMCA YOUTH AND FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER ON WEST
BROADWAY AVENUE IN NORTH MINNEAPOLIS
- EMMA B. HOWE NORTHEAST BRANCH YMCA INTERVENTION SERVICES OFFICE
LOCATED IN NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

IN 2008 THE YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MINNEAPOLIS PROVIDED OVER \$2.4 MILLION IN
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO 14,870 INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN MEMBERSHIP, CAMPING
AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AT NO COST TO THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS.

WE PROVIDED CHILD CARE TO 5,145 CHILDREN AT 41 PROGRAM SITES WITH 14% RECEIVING
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

WE PROVIDED SUMMER PROGRAMS TO 4,383 CHILDREN

OVER 10,000 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN DAY CAMP AND 3,645 PARTICIPATED IN AN OVERNIGHT CAMP

WE PROVIDED AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS TO 1,239 CHILDREN AT 3 MINNEAPOLIS BEACONS SITES

WE PROVIDED CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES TO 713 YOUNG ADULTS AND SERVED THEM THROUGH 15,600 CONTACT HOURS

WE PROVIDED YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES TO OVER 1,822 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OUR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

WE PROVIDED SKILL DEVELOPMENT, TUTORING, MENTORING AND SERVICE PROGRAMS TO OVER 6,009 YOUTH AND FAMILIES THROUGH OUR UNITED WAY FUNDED PROGRAMS.

WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS FACES SEVERE BUDGET PROBLEMS, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE YMCA ARE ALSO EXPERIENCING SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES, DUE IN PART TO THE GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE YMCA EARN THEIR NON-PROFIT STATUS EVERYDAY. WE PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY, WE RAISE DONATED DOLLARS, AND PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.

THE PROPOSED ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS UNDERCUT THE PURPOSE OF THE EXEMPTION AND LIMITS THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE ARE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR MISSION AND LESSEN THE BURDENS ON GOVERNMENT.

PLAIN AND SIMPLE EVERY ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT, FEE OR TAX WILL SIMPLY REDUCE THE YMCA'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMS TO THE MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?

HOW ARE CURRENT PROPERTY TAX PAYERS BEING ASSESSED FOR THE SAME STREET LIGHT SERVICES?

WHAT CALCULATIONS ARE BEING USED TO DETERMINE STREET LIGHTING FOR PROPERTIES NOT IMPACTED BY THIS CHANGE?

THE YMCA ASSUMES THAT IF FEES HAVE BEEN CHARGE IN PREVIOUS YEARS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER ASSESSMENTS ASSIGNED TO THE PROPERTY TAX AND ASSESSMENT INVOICES SUBMITTED ANNUALLY.

IT APPEARS THAT THIS CHANGE MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON MANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE YMCA.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME AND THE YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MINNEAPOLIS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR OBJECTIONS TO PROJECT NUMBER 1337L AND 1337M.