



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Communications Office

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SUBJECT: City of Duluth to Recieve State Funding for DNR Buyout Program

BY: Daniel Fanning, Community Relations Officer

City of Duluth to Recieve State Funding For DNR Buyout Program

Welcomed Relief for Duluth Homeowners Negatively Affected by Historic June Flood

Mayor Don Ness announced today that the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Recourses, along with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, has approved the City of Duluth's Application for the DNR Home Buyout Program. The State approved \$1,097,000 for the City of Duluth which includes all ten properties in the application. The City submitted the application in October on behalf of the homeowners negatively impacted by the June flood, yet located outside the floodplain. These homes suffered significant damage and/or were put at great risk and in many cases the homes were uninhabitable, yet were not eligible for FEMA assistance. This funding will allow the City to acquire the homes in 2013.

One of the homeowners, Theresa Bunnell of Lincoln Park, called today's news "the best Christmas present ever." She feared she would have to continue making mortgage payments on an inhabitable home, while also now paying rent at a new location.

Mayor Ness welcomed the news and pledged to continue being a strong advocate on behalf of all Duluthians still working to rebuild their lives after the flood:

"Today's news means several homeowners can breathe a slight sigh of relief this holiday season knowing they have the option of letting the City acquire their home." Mayor Ness added, "We are grateful for the funding, support, and partnership from the State. There is still much more recovery work to be done and several residents still in need of assistance, but today's news is a very positive step for several Duluth residents looking to rebuild their lives."

The City plans to have a grant agreement in place in January, with the goal of beginning to set up closing dates on these homes in March 2013.

For more information, please contact Community Relations Officer Daniel Fanning at (218) 730-5307 or dfanning@duluthmn.gov.

