

Metro Inn Protective Housing

October 2020

Project Overview

COVID-19 has made the need for housing even more urgent, which is why Hennepin County's Housing and Redevelopment Authority is interested in purchasing the Metro Inn Motel. Converting the motel to protective housing will provide additional safe living spaces for vulnerable populations during the pandemic.

About the building

The motel, located at 5637 Lyndale Avenue South in Minneapolis, has 34 units that include mini fridges and microwaves.

Eligible residents

Those eligible for residency include seniors (ages 55+) and single adults with underlying medical conditions that put them at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19. These individuals also must have been stably housed by the County for the past six months as part of the County's public health response to the pandemic. Families and children are not eligible at this time.

Building management

The County will contract with a property manager to oversee the property and residents with a goal of having 24-hour onsite management. The property manager will be responsible for holding residents to a code of conduct, as well as maintaining clear communication with the neighborhood.

Neighborhood involvement

As the County has been talking to members of the community about the Metro Inn, a number of neighbors have asked how they can help. We will work with neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities for residents to support their new neighbors.

Anticipated construction

The County will make updates to the units, which may include improvements to duct work and airflow, partitions, paint and carpet. Safety updates will include new locks, along with outside lighting and security cameras for the property. All work will be completed by December so that the new residents can move in before the end of the year.

Project Timeline

- ✓ Hennepin County has made an offer on the property and is currently in the due diligence period of the contract.
- ✓ Hennepin County has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select onsite building management.
- ✓ The property closing date is expected to be in November.
- ✓ Building updates and improvements to the rooms will happen immediately after the closing. Residents should be able to move in before the end of the year.

Questions

Commissioner Greene, the District 3 team and Hennepin County staff are committed to providing continued updates on this project as it progresses. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Laura Hoffman.

Commissioner Marion Greene – District 3

Laura Hoffman

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Hennepin County believes a safe and affordable place to live is the foundation on which people build successful lives and contribute to their communities. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for housing has become even more urgent, and vulnerable populations need a safe place to stay with individual living spaces that follow public health precautions.