

Community Planning and Economic Development

News Release

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Minneapolis-St. Paul team selected for new national anti-displacement policy network

March 23, 2018 (Minneapolis) — Earlier this week, PolicyLink announced that Minneapolis and St. Paul have been selected for the first cohort of the [All-In Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network](#). Along with a network of nine other cities, a leadership team from Minneapolis and St. Paul will work together over the next year on strategies to fight displacement and build inclusive, prosperous cities. The other cities selected for the cohort are: Austin, TX; Boston, MA; Buffalo, NY; Denver, CO; Nashville, TN; Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR; San José, CA; and Santa Fe, NM.

“As leaders in their communities, the participants in this network are advancing strategies to halt the forces that are pushing low-income people and people of color out of cities, while creating the conditions for our cities and communities to thrive,” said Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO of PolicyLink. “We hope this network will be an opportunity to sharpen these strategies, develop new and innovative ideas, and amplify what is working so that we can spread success across the nation.”

Each city selected for this work has created a team of local leaders, including elected officials, senior city staff, and community leaders. The Minneapolis-St. Paul team includes: Minneapolis Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins, Minneapolis City Council Member Jeremiah Ellison, St. Paul City Council Member Chris Tolbert, Owen Duckworth (Alliance for Metropolitan Stability), Neeraj Mehta (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota), Shannon Smith Jones (HOPE Community), Tia Williams (Frogtown Neighborhood Association), Andrea Brennan (Director of Housing Policy and Development, City of Minneapolis), Amy Geisler (Principal Project Manager, City of St. Paul), and Tony Johnson (Planner, City of St. Paul).

The city teams will advance a range of strategies, that may include renter protections, community land trusts and community ownership models, commercial neighborhood stabilization, inclusionary housing and other equitable development strategies. Participants will work to build the power, voice, and capacity of communities directly impacted by displacement in defining the challenges and advancing solutions.

Network activities will include virtual learning labs, individualized coaching sessions with national experts, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. The network participants will first meet at the PolicyLink Equity Summit in Chicago, April 11-13, with one additional network gathering in Fall 2018.

Previous [research](#) conducted by PolicyLink and the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) shows that reducing rent burdens, one of the main causes of displacement, would put \$124 billion back in the pocketbooks of renters to spend in their local communities. Renters are the majority in the 100 largest cities in America, yet 51 percent are rent burdened (paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent). Over 60 percent of households led by women of color are rent burdened.

“I’m honored and excited to join Council Vice President Jenkins in representing Minneapolis in PolicyLink’s All-In Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network,” said City of Minneapolis Council Member Jeremiah Ellison. “In Minneapolis, displacement pressures are rising and the cost to black communities, immigrant communities, indigenous communities, and low income communities is incongruent with the stated values of our city. I believe we can improve a city without displacing people and my hope is that, between the many brilliant minds on this cohort, we will be able to create a roadmap for anti-displacement work and policies that other cities can mechanize.”

“This is in recognition of our regional priority of fair housing, and in particular the partnership between St. Paul and Minneapolis,” said Saint Paul City Council Member Chris Tolbert. “We look forward to working with regions from across the country as we try and address the housing stability crisis we are all currently facing.”

The All-In Cities initiative provides policy research, data, and capacity-building and implementation support to city governments and community coalitions as they develop and implement tailored policy solutions to create stronger cities for all. All-In Cities includes: policy research and development through the [All-In Cities Policy Toolkit](#); data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, income, neighborhood, and other demographics through the [National Equity Atlas](#) (the partnership between PolicyLink and PERE); and place-based engagements and field building, including the All-In Cities Anti-Displacement Policy Network. This work is made possible with support from J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and The Kresge Foundation.

About PolicyLink

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