

To: Minneapolis City Council
Minneapolis Public Works

From: Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: March 2, 2016

Subject: "Barriers to Walking for Public Housing High Rise Residents"

"Barriers to Walking for Public Housing High Rise Residents"

Background:

As part of its Healthy Living initiative, the Minneapolis Health Department works with residents of Minneapolis Public Housing Authority highrise buildings to improve physical activity opportunities in and near the highrises. The Health Department works on this project in partnership with the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council (MHRC), the MPHA highrise tenant organization, and its Active Living Advisory Committee. Together, MHRC and the Health Department have led a process to gather resident input on exercise equipment in their buildings, falls prevention programming, and the walking environment around their buildings (the focus of this report). The purpose of this report is to summarize residents' input about the walking environment around highrise buildings, including identifying residents' barriers to walking and using transit and describing specific infrastructure challenges identified by residents.

In 2015, the MHRC's Active Living Advisory Committee presented the study's findings to the PAC.

PAC Resolution:

Whereas most of the 5,000 highrise building residents are seniors and people with disabilities, and most depend on active transportation and transit to get around and meet their needs.

Whereas city of Minneapolis Goals and Strategic Direction (adopted 3/28/14) include:

- Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life
- One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper

The PAC fully supports the findings of the study, Barriers to Walking for Public Housing High Rise Residents. The PAC looks forward to advising city leadership and Public Works staff on the implementation of solutions to remove the barriers identified therein.