

CHAPTER 551—S.F.No.2144

[Not Coded]

An act relating to the city of Minneapolis; authorizing the city to prepare, adopt and amend design districts and a design framework to establish a design advisory committee, and to establish design review procedures for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the city's visual appearances and environmental quality.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. MINNEAPOLIS, CITY OF; DESIGN DISTRICTS; PURPOSE AND DECLARATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES. The legislature finds:

(a) That the city of Minneapolis was first settled in 1840 and has a special place in the historical and cultural heritage of the state;

(b) That the state, Hennepin county and the city have through the years made a very considerable investment in the city for providing various public improvements;

(c) That those public investments may be damaged to a considerable degree by failing to afford protection to the character of the area where these investments were made;

(d) That the visual character and environmental quality of the city are important attributes of the quality of life in the city which attracts people to come to the city to live, work, and enjoy their lives in the city;

(e) That the excitement and pleasantness of the city have been important factors in attracting visitors from throughout the state, the country, and the world and contributes greatly to the wealth of the city and the state;

(f) That the environment of the city has played an important role in attracting industries and business to the area, thus contributing greatly to the prosperity of the state;

(g) That the special character and environmental quality of the city of Minneapolis, built through the farsighted planning of its forefathers and the loving care of its citizens for many generations, are currently threatened by rapid, haphazard, insensitive and in some cases noxious development; that these developments threaten to create visual chaos and blight, thus polluting our visual environment on one hand and encouraging visual monotony and sterility on the other; and that it is in the interest of the state as a whole that every effort be made to forestall such destruction;

Changes or additions indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(h) That such visual pollution in the city will substantially reduce the historical and cultural assets of the city and destroy the sense of community identity; therefore it is in the interest of the state as a whole that every effort be made to stop such a destructive process; and

(i) That with rising income and education the citizens of the city are demanding higher quality of environment which is neither chaotic nor sterile, which is diverse yet related, which reflects the geography and history of the area, thus providing a sense of identity for the community; therefor it is in the interest of the state as a whole that every effort be made to create such a quality environment.

It is hereby declared as a matter of public policy that the preservation and enhancement of environmental quality in the city, the protection of public and private investments, and the prevention of visual pollution and sterilization is a public necessity desirable to sound community planning and development for the city, and is required in the interest of health, safety, prosperity and welfare of the people.

Sec. 2. PREPARATION, ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF DESIGN DISTRICTS AND DESIGN FRAMEWORK. As a means of preserving and enhancing the environmental quality of the city of Minneapolis, the governing body of the city is especially authorized to do the following:

(a) The governing body may by ordinance after recommendation from its planning agency and after a public hearing, notice of which shall have been published in a newspaper of general circulation for at least three weeks before the date of the public hearing, adopt design districts and design framework which shall be subject to special controls of the types authorized herein.

(b) The design framework may include a compilation of design policies, goals, standards, principles, visual form and image structures, and action programs for guiding the future development of public and private property within the districts;

(c) Design districts may specifically include designated corridors along freeways and other major thoroughfares; areas abutting major educational and cultural institutions; areas abutting the lakes, the major parks and parkways, the riverfronts, and the central business district of the city; areas abutting major transportation terminals, major public facilities, and a number of major community business districts; and such other areas as the planning agency may find to be especially significant to the preservation of the visual character and environmental quality of the city.

(d) Provided that no more than two such design districts may be so adopted prior to July 1, 1973.

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Sec. 3. ORGANIZATION FOR TECHNICAL DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The governing body of the city of Minneapolis may by ordinance create and appoint or delegate the authority to appoint a technical design advisory committee for reviewing the public and private improvements within the design districts for compliance with the design framework. The persons appointed to the committee should be those recognized as experts in the matters of environment design by virtue of their interests, endowment, training and experience.

Sec. 4. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS. The governing body of the city of Minneapolis shall, if it exercises the authority granted under section 2 above, by ordinance provide that no environmental improvements—buildings, structures, site improvements, or signs—shall be erected, altered, restored, moved, or made within the design districts until after a certificate of appropriateness is issued by an agency designated by the governing body.

Before issuing the certificate of appropriateness the plans of the proposed improvement shall be submitted to the technical design advisory committee for review as to compliance with the design framework, after which the technical design advisory committee shall make a recommendation to the agency designated to issue the certificate of appropriateness.

Sec. 5. Provisions of this act shall be effective notwithstanding any statute or charter provision to the contrary.

Sec. 6. This act shall become effective upon its approval by resolution adopted by a majority of all members of the city council of the city of Minneapolis and upon compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.021.

Approved May 26, 1971.

CHAPTER 552—S.F.No.2228

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to retirement allowances for employees of cities of the first class; revising the age at which certain deposits may be withdrawn; providing for certain elections; amending Minnesota Statutes 1969, Section 422.37, Subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 6, and by adding subdivisions.

Changes or additions indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.