

We are all saddened by the events of this past Thursday with the fire and damaged sustained on the 400 block of Melrose. Many families and businesses have been displaced. Efforts are well underway to assist all families and businesses affected. As we have come to know, Melrose is a Strong, Diverse and Connected community. During recent events similar to this, we have seen that there are many people that are willing and able to help. The biggest issue is duplication of efforts. To aid in this we at the City of Melrose have been attempting to consolidate a list of efforts. Mike Creelman, Melrose Community Development Director is taking the lead on this effort.

Melrose Fire Relief and American Red Cross kick started the recovery efforts late yesterday afternoon to request assistance for the displaced families. As per the information we have, the American Red Cross along with local volunteers have been able to assist the family find temporary housing. However, long term housing needs will be needed. To the best of our knowledge, each family will be working separately to find long term housing once this initial shock is over. The Women of Today are also assisting by facilitating the family's needs. We have attempted to reach out to all of the business who are directly impacted. Some these businesses have already found temporary solutions. However, we need to work jointly to find long term solutions. Plus, we must not forget those that are indirectly affected. (both people and businesses alike.)

All city EMS, Public Works and Utilities are working as fast as we can to create a safe environment and open the streets as fast as we can safely. Please be patient during this time. Safety is our main priority. The City staff has reached out to local, regional, state as well as federal resource providers to inform them of our situation. We asking them to inform us of possible resources that we may be able to leverage. We have also reached out to Rep. Anderson, Senator Westrom and Congressman Persons Office to inform them of the situation and asking for them to provide us with options.

Melrose staff is meeting with the Initiative Foundation out of Little Falls late in the afternoon on Monday to start to consolidate resources. Once we have a better understanding of the tools available, we will then reach out to the appropriate business owners and property owners to inform them. Please remember this is a long process, but we will work together on this. Please be patient as this is less than 24 hours since the event. For the immediate needs please see below..... We will provide an update once we know more.

Thank you,

City of Melrose