

**CITY OF COLOGNE**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 16-cb**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES FOR  
REFORM OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, regional planning and local government cooperation is vital to the continued success of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council is, by statute, the regional planning agency for the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area, with broad authority, including the ability to levy taxes, charge fees and set regional policy; and

**WHEREAS**, cities and counties are the entities most directly affected by policies and financial decisions of the Metropolitan Council, making them the primary constituents of the Metropolitan Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Council's scope of authority and involvement in regional issues has expanded significantly over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, a governmental entity, particularly one with taxing authority, to be effective, must be credible, and responsive and accountable to those it represents; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of Metropolitan Council members resides solely with the Governor, effectively making the Governor the primary constituent of the Metropolitan Council; and

**WHEREAS**, many cities and counties believe that the Metropolitan Council lacks accountability and responsiveness to them as direct constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, many cities and counties believe that the authority to impose taxes and set regional policy should be the responsibility of local government elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, reform is necessary to ensure that the Metropolitan Council is an effective, responsive, and accountable partner for regional development and progress.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Metropolitan Council, due to its taxing and policy authority, should be accountable to a regional constituency of those impacted by its decisions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Metropolitan Council should not operate as a state agency answerable to only one person, the Governor, as it does in its current form; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Cologne City Council supports reform of the Metropolitan Council that adheres to the following principles:

- I. A majority of the members of the Metropolitan Council shall be elected officials, appointed from cities and counties within the region;
- II. Metropolitan cities shall directly control the appointment process for city representatives to the Metropolitan Council;

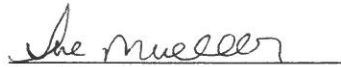
- III. Metropolitan counties shall directly appoint their own representatives to the Metropolitan Council;
- IV. The terms of office for any Metropolitan Council members appointed by the Governor shall be staggered and not coterminous with the Governor;
- V. Membership on the Metropolitan Council shall include representation from every metropolitan county government;
- VI. The Metropolitan Council shall represent the entire region, therefore voting shall be structured based on population and incorporate a system of checks and balances.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cologne, Minnesota on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Approved:

  
 Don Meyer  
 Acting Mayor

Attested:

  
 Sue Mueller  
 City Clerk

M/ McInnis

Evenski Aye

Meyer Aye

S/ Szaroletta

McInnis Aye

Szaroletta Aye

Williams ABSENT