



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Saint Paul, MN 55102

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May 29, 2011

Ms. Yvonne Barrett, Program Officer  
Mardag Foundation  
55 Fifth Street East, Suite 600  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1797

Dear Ms. Barrett:

The Office of the Mayor of Saint Paul lends its full support to the Sprockets Out-of-School-Time network and to the Parks and Recreation Department as a partner in the network.

Since my first term, I have been a strong proponent of strengthening out-of-school-time learning to support and enhance learning that takes place during the school day. The formation of the Sprockets Out-of-School-Time Network and the deep partnership between the City of Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Public Schools and many community-based organizations will provide a systematic approach to extending the learning day for all youth and helping to close the achievement gap in Saint Paul. High quality out-of-school-time programs also can promote the development of essential skills such as collaboration and creativity and will help youth develop self-esteem, leadership and more.

I appreciate the Mardag Foundation providing an opportunity to the Sprockets Network, through the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department, to request funds to support professional development to improve the quality of out-of-school-time programs. Thank you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor of Saint Paul