



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
*Mayor Christopher B. Coleman*

*390 City Hall  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard*

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December 12, 2011

The Honorable  
Mary Kiffmeyer  
501 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Dear Rep. Kiffmeyer,

I understand that the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) is under review by the Sunset Commission. I welcome the opportunity to offer some perspective on the CAAPB's work and its relationship to Saint Paul.

You are well aware, I expect, of the benefits of its work on the design of the Capitol grounds and the preservation of the Capitol building. I would like to focus on its lesser known zoning and land use authority. Unlike many circumstances where there is overlapping jurisdiction, the CAAPB has sole authority over design and zoning reviews within the Capitol Area. The City of Saint Paul's zoning ordinance specifically indicates that zoning regulations in the area encompassing the State Capitol and its surroundings are under the jurisdiction of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board. (Sec. 60.204)

Were the CAAPB to sunset, both State law and our ordinance presumably would have to be amended to either give the authority to some other body organized to conduct the quasi-judicial review inherent in zoning matters or provide that the City of Saint Paul assume jurisdiction over land use decisions in the Capitol Area. In the latter circumstance, while the City would certainly seek the advice of Capitol Area interests, the Saint Paul Planning Commission and City Council would have final authority over zoning and land use decisions. We are certainly capable of exercising that authority as we do in other special purpose districts, but I expect the Sunset Commission would want to be cautious about relinquishing the State's jurisdiction in this area.

City staff has a long history of collaboration with the CAAPB and its staff and I believe both downtown Saint Paul and the Capitol Area are the better for it. We rely on the CAAPB to be the experts on what is best for the Capitol Area and we believe that their expertise strengthens not only the Capitol Area but downtown as well. Further, the City

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is appreciative of the prompt review given to all permit and license applications from the Capitol Area—applications that cannot be granted by the City without CAAPB approval.

It is my recommendation that the Commission affirm the unique contribution of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and not allow it to sunset.

Please don't hesitate to call me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher B. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor

cc: Nancy Stark