



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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The Honorable
Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor
116 Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

It is my privilege to recommend Jon Commers for reappointment to the Metropolitan Council as the Council Member from District 14.

Jon has distinguished himself over the past four years as both an advocate for central cities and a champion for a new regional vision. While others might find it difficult to maintain that balance, he brings to the work a commitment to community engagement, openness to new ideas and attention to the details of the larger conversation. People come away from an encounter with Jon knowing that they've been heard and that his understanding of the issue has been shaped by their perspective. Specifically,

- Jon has worked hard to engage the people of Saint Paul at the point at which the Council's planning work becomes real. He was a very active partner through the Green Line construction and related bus route expansion, making himself available to small business owners impacted by construction and transit riders concerned about route changes. He is now a trusted advisor as we plan for the redevelopment of the Ford site and for the Snelling/University "bus barn" property. He can be counted on to address specific equity concerns as evidenced by his coordinating a solution to the interruption of bus service to Mount Airy public housing prompted by MnDOT construction on 35E.
- On the other hand, Jon has been an advocate for an innovative approach to regional planning that reflects the dramatic market, demographic and environmental changes that will shape the future. Chair Haigh asked him to serve as one of five Council members charged with developing the Thrive MSP 2040 plan over 18 months—a plan that was adopted in May and offers a modern perspective on how to provide for the region's community needs in the coming 30 years.

When I was first elected, I appointed Jon to our Planning Commission. He quickly became its chair. I was not surprised, therefore, when you tapped him for the Metropolitan Council. He has the intellect, temperament and passion for this work. He has served with distinction. And I am confident that the region would benefit from his continued service.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor