



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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The United States Conference of Mayors
1620 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20006

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I am writing to support the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's Willow Reserve Revitalization proposal for the CommunityWINS grant program. This grant will be used to fund value gap subsidy for the construction of eleven single family homes in the North End neighborhood, which will result in a public-private collaboration to stabilize the neighborhood by removing blight and providing homeownership opportunities for low income residents. This development, located in a culturally and racially diverse neighborhood, will advance the neighborhood's desire to balance rental and homeownership housing.

Development proposals over the past several years have been for both rental and homeownership at a range of densities, but none seemed to fit with the neighborhood and align with their goals as well as the Habitat proposal. The creation of this new neighborhood represents a rare opportunity in Saint Paul and one that has been embraced by key neighborhood and political stakeholders. As a demonstration of the City's support and commitment to this project, the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority will be voting on March 23rd to allocate \$1.6 million in development gap and infrastructure funding. Your support is being requested to fund the affordability gap, which allows Habitat to provide affordable mortgages to homeowners.

The City of Saint Paul has partnered with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity for many years. The work done by Habitat to address homeownership disparities, particularly amongst communities of color, has helped work toward the balance the city is working to achieve. Habitat projects have long-provided homeownership opportunities to the city's lowest income households. They continue to demonstrate a commitment to working with families to provide skills and training for long-term and successful homeownership, which often translates to stabilization in jobs and education.

Residents of the Willow Reserve development will benefit from the proximity to the 23 acre Willow Reserve wildlife habitat and educational park, area parks and recreation options, schools, transportation and job opportunities, and the continued stabilization of the surrounding area. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is now, and will be in the future, an important partner in helping Saint Paul become the most livable city in America.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor