



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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February 11, 2016,

Ms. Jackie Sticha, President
Ms. Nancy Nelson, Chair
Como Friends
1225 Estabrook Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Dear Ms. Sticha and Ms. Nelson:

During these tough economic times, the generosity of Saint Paul's residents and its supporters never cease to amaze me. Without such support, so much of what we are proud to have may not exist. It is with a lot of gratitude I send this letter thanking you and Como Friends for the continued generosity to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Without the help of the gift of \$834,360 the daily services to the public would be impacted and the Como experience would simply not be the same.

For over 100 years now, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory has entertained generations of families throughout the state, and in 2015, the experience only seemed to improve, thanks much to Como Friends support. The opening of The Centennial Garden, along with the beautiful, welcoming Palm Walk, the very fun Centennial Celebration weekends, and your support in hosting the American Public Gardens Association National Conference all highlighted a banner year for Saint Paul's regional attraction. Along with the educational support provide by Como Friends to enhance the visit for children and adults alike, Como's team has done an exceptional job leveraging the funds available.

The ongoing partnership between the City and Como Friends is essential to the continued success of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, and your efforts are appreciated.

As you know, our work in the City is not getting any easier as finances will continue to challenge the state and city. 2016 will be an exciting year, though, with the opening of the Giraffe Feeding Station, and I know Como has strong support thanks to Saint Paul's committed partners. Congratulations to your staff and Board of Directors on your continued success. Como Friends' efforts and success is truly amazing.

Sincerely,

Chris Coleman
Mayor



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