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CITY CLERK

January 28, 2015

RE: Interim Ward 7 Councilmember

The Mayor's choice of such a talented person for such a critical job bodes well for the City. Kathy Lantry will be a great Director of Public Works. The City will benefit from her vast knowledge and hard work. Our Ward however will miss her. Having worked with Kathy, you know what a strong and experienced advocate she has been for our Ward.

Nobody can replace Kathy, but we do need an interim Councilmember who can hit the ground running. We need someone who knows the workings of the City Council, City Government, City regulations, and has experience working on issues in our Ward and the City as a whole.

There have been discussions in our Ward about how critical it is that we have an interim Councilmember who can hit the ground running and be a strong advocate. Those discussions have lead to my being asked to please apply. Their encouragement is humbling. After discussing with my wife Susan, I am submitting my name for your consideration and support.

I have been and will continue to be a tireless advocate for Ward 7. Having served on the City Council allows me to hit the ground running. My ongoing work with Kathy, Ellen, the District Councils, and other groups on issues affecting the Ward and City provide me with an extensive background of knowledge and experience that I can draw on.

I will not run in the upcoming election. I am seeking your support only to serve in the interim until the new Councilmember is elected.

I have served in a number of roles over the years. I served as the Committee Administrator for the Minnesota Senate Energy and Housing Committee and the Joint Legislative Commission on Energy. I worked on programs to provide energy assistance, weatherization, increased energy efficiency, LRT, renewable energy, affordable housing and community revitalization. The work led to significant investments by the State to improve the lives of the poor, revitalize inner city neighborhoods, enhance transit, reduce our dependence on oil and coal, and reduce global warming.

On the City Council, I sought out ways to enhance our neighborhoods and reduce impacts on our environment in ways that are sustainable. A good example is the street lighting policy I worked on. Saint Paul formerly purchased and maintained numerous different street lighting types that were often energy inefficient, unattractive, incompatible, and costly to maintain. There was also income inequity in street lighting. Better lighting often went into the more affluent neighborhoods. I worked with Public Works to redesign Saint Paul's historic lantern street lighting system with a new energy efficient lantern. A standardized energy efficient design meant the City was able to install the more attractive lantern lights throughout the City.

Purchasing a standardized system lowers the cost of installation and ongoing maintenance. Converting lighting to a high efficiency design reduces energy usage, emissions and electrical costs. Our work was so successful that the lights have been marketed around the country.

I have worked with the Governor and Legislature to develop and fund neighborhood revitalization. I have also worked with the Governor and Legislature to fund the sewer separation program. The program eliminated the dumping of raw sewage in the river on average every third day.

My background includes Housing and Redevelopment Authority Chair, Planning Commission, Mississippi National River and Recreational Area Commission, Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board, Minneapolis Saint Paul Housing Finance Board.

With my background in housing and construction, I have personally invested a lot of time and money in neighborhood revitalization efforts in Saint Paul. I have received national and local awards for my work.

When the City cited me for planting flowers on the boulevard while I was working to restore a historic home in Dayton's Bluff, I brought the issue to the City Council. The City Council adopted a policy supporting neighborhood efforts to beautify their community with flowers on the boulevard. It is a small example of how we can individually and collectively make a difference in our City.

I am currently working with others on a number of initiatives, including parkland dedication, railroad oil shipment impacts on Saint Paul neighborhoods, DNR rulemaking, and enhanced citizen participation opportunities in City decision making.

One of the issues I worked on as a Councilmember and continue to support is restoring the right to vote. Everyone deserves the opportunity to be a full and productive member of our community and have a say in our elections. People deserve a second chance. Democracy only works when everyone has a say in what happens in their community.

I served in the United States Army. As a Disabled American Veteran, I spend time at the VA. I also serve as a Director of the DFL Veterans Caucus. We owe a great debt of gratitude to all who have served. I advocate for veterans and veteran issues. I would appreciate the opportunity to advocate for Veterans as a City Councilmember. State and City Veteran's Preference policy states: Recognizing that training and experience in the military services of the government and loyalty and sacrifice for the government are qualifications of merit.

Pay equity is an issue that I worked on as a City Councilmember . We provided leadership in implementing pay equity in jobs that had historically been underpaid. Pay equity and a fair minimum wage are essential to supporting equity, strong families and neighborhoods.

I am a strong advocate for our parks system. Our parks and natural resources are a wonderful asset that set us apart from many other communities. Protecting and enhancing our parks

enhances the livability and economic vitality of our City. I was honored as Parks Volunteer of the Year and have twice been included on the Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll.

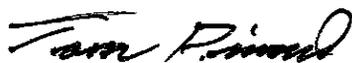
I was born and raised in Saint Paul. I first lived in Highland until our Irish Catholic family grew too large for our home and moved to Crocus Hill. When I returned from the service, Susan and I lived in Dayton's Bluff. In 1974, Susan and I built our own home in Highwood. We have slowly worked our way from one side of the city to the other.

I attended Saint Leo's, Saint Luke's, Cretin, Anoka Ramsey Community College and Mankato State University.

My father helped build the Saint Paul Civic Center and the first affordable housing in Saint Paul. My grandfather helped build the current City Hall. My step great grandmother and Dino Guerin's great grandfather donated the land for the previous City Hall. My roots go back to those who fought for our independence in the Revolutionary War, my Mohawk great grandmother, and my Irish ancestors who left Ireland during the potato famine, and came to Saint Paul via Chicago where they worked in the packing plants and railroad yards of Chicago's South Side. We all are here because of the work that our ancestors have done to provide a better future for us.

In this short interim period, I am interested in putting my experience to work to help ensure a smooth transition between Kathy and our new City Councilmember.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Dimond". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Dimond