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WILLIAM K. FINNEY
949 PINE VIEW COURT
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55119

651-331-9293

January 21, 2015

Saint Paul City Council
Office of Council President
Ramsey County Courthouse
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

SUBJECT: Ward 7 Member Vacancy and Interim Replacement

Dear City Council Members,

I write in reference to the impending Ward 7 Council member vacancy. I wish to offer my name in consideration for Interim City Council member.

I have resided at my present address, in Ward 7, since 1987. I am a proud resident of the Highwood Hills neighborhood, raised my family and plan to always maintain my home here. I am a native Saint Paulite, educated within our public school system having maintained my city residence throughout my life. Additionally I am a retired City Public Servant with a public service record that spans four decades. My service includes Classified, Appointed and Elected positions. The majority of my service has been in Public Safety as a St. Paul Police Officer. I rose through the ranks in our Police department as Patrol Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Police Chief. I was elected to the Saint Paul Board of Education in 1989 and in 2005 served as an Interim Board Member. These positions have given me a keen knowledge of the internal workings of our city government and the issues confronting Saint Paul. My commitment to our city is unshakeable as is my determination to maintain its public safety, economic opportunities and high quality of livability for all residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William K. Finney



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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WILLIAM K. FINNEY

William K. Finney was born in Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1948. A life-long resident of the city, he was named Chief of Saint Paul's Police Department on July 15, 1992, following 21 years of experience on the force.

Mr. Finney's law enforcement career began with a position as a Reserve Police Officer in Mankato in 1969. On January 23, 1971 he was sworn in as a Saint Paul police officer. During his tenure, he was promoted to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. Prior to being named Chief of Police, he fulfilled assignments as patrol officer, investigator, community projects leader, patrol supervisor, director of training and executive officer, in addition to functioning as the Team Commander for the Central District of the city.

In 1980, Mr. Finney graduated from the FBI National Academy, and in 1994 the FBI's National Executive Institute in Quantico, Virginia. He is also a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police, sponsored by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). He has served on the Governor's Commission on Violence and the Minnesota Supreme Court Task Force on Racial Bias. Mr. Finney has served as an executive board member of the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA).

As Chief of Police for the City of Saint Paul, Mr. Finney led the department in its strong community-based policing concept. This effort has resulted in citizens sharing a partnership with law enforcement officials to ensure the safety of those working and residing in the city. Examples of successful community policing are the Weed and Seed program and the Heavy Enforcement Activities for Thirty Days (HEAT) program. These proactive policing strategies effectively identified and incarcerated individuals who engaged in unlawful and nuisance activities. Simultaneously he introduced positive community building and crime prevention activities to make these neighborhoods more livable. Under Mr. Finney's direction, "community policing offices" were opened in several areas of the city that were staffed by both police officers and community volunteers. He also reorganized the department with a series of operational and structural changes that complemented his community policing philosophy. As Chief of Police, Mr. Finney increased department efficiencies through the reduction of supervisory and management positions, by consolidating units within the department; and by decentralizing resources from headquarters to district offices located in the neighborhoods. He worked with other units of government in a consolidated effort to reduce service duplication and create greater opportunities for cooperation between various levels of government. Mr. Finney initiated the establishment of the Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission, (PCIARC) to oversee complaints involving the conduct of Saint Paul police officers. Under his leadership, the department implemented a ground-breaking agreement with the local chapter of the NAACP to address issues of racial profiling and race relations in Saint Paul.

Mr. Finney has strong and ongoing links to the Saint Paul community. He was raised in Saint Paul's Rondo/Summit-University neighborhood and is a product of the city's public school system. He graduated from Central High School in 1966. Four years later, he graduated from Minnesota State University - Mankato, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and Psychology. As a result of his interest in quality public education, he was elected to the Saint Paul School Board in 1989 and served three years – two years as Board Clerk and one year as Treasurer. Mr. Finney has also served in the YMCA Black Achievers Association and the Indianhead Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He served a term as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Saint Paul Area.

Since his retirement from the Saint Paul Police Department, June 30, 2004, Mr. Finney has consulted with the Police Assessment Research Forum (PARC) in California on a variety of contemporary law enforcement issues. He has consulted on Public Safety issues for the City of Mankato. He has also volunteered as a Reading Aide to the students at Maxfield Elementary School, and for Community of Peace Charter School in Saint Paul. He enjoys working on his vintage motor vehicles and spending time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Finney resides in the Highwood Hills neighborhood with his wife Linda.