



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor



Neighborhood STAR Program
1400 City Hall Annex
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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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November 23, 2015

Chuck Repke, Administrator, NENDC
Deanna Abbott-Foster, Executive Director
Dayton's Bluff Community Council
804 Margaret Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106

Dear Mr. Repke & Ms. Abbott-Foster:

**Subject: STAR Project #12-132 (77917) Million will Make it Happen on East 7th
Street Program**

Thank you for your November 18th presentation to the Neighborhood STAR Board. The success your program has experienced to date from small acquisitions to the creation of the East Side Enterprise Center is impressive.

During your presentation, you indicated the challenges you faced over three years ago when attempting to predict future needs along East Seventh Street. This was especially difficult when estimating the amount of time each project would take and determining funding categories with the most need while developing the program.

Your current request is to move STAR funds initially budgeted for public improvement activities and rehabbing commercial properties into the acquisition category thereby increasing the total budget for acquisition from 10 to 20 percent of STAR dollars. In addition, funds allowed for Direct Project Costs would increase to 10 percent of your \$500,000 STAR award. Finally, you indicated that in order to move forward on the complex projects already underway, you would like the contract extended to March 31, 2017. These changes would allow you to complete the final projects already planned.

Although Board Members continue to be very supportive of your improvement efforts along East Seventh Street and appreciate all of the progress made to date, STAR Guidelines do not allow for the amendments you are seeking. The STAR Board recommended you pursue City Council approval for a waiver of STAR Guidelines to increase the percentage for acquisition and soft costs to 30% and provide an additional year to complete your activities on East Seventh Street.

If you have questions, please contact either Michele Swanson (651-266-6574) or Beth Ulrich (651-266-6689).

Sincerely,

Kerry Antim, Chair
Neighborhood STAR Board

cc: Mayor Coleman, Council Member Finney, PED Director, STAR Staff

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