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November 16, 2015

Councilmember Chris Tolbert
310-C City Hall
15 West Kellogg Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Tolbert:

The Minnesota Wild is excited by the prospect of being a tenant in a renewed Macy's building. We think this is a very important project to continue the momentum of revitalizing downtown St. Paul. It will add vitality to the City by bringing more business and people to the core of St. Paul and is a win-win for both of us and is the reason why we support using TIF on this project.

This would be the culmination of a long journey with the City. Discussions of a practice facility date back to when we originally signed our arena lease in 1998, which included a provision that the Wild and the City of St. Paul would collaborate to locate this facility in St. Paul. After a history of jointly discussing and exploring many options, we have arrived at a point in time where we have landed on a mutual solution that not only meets the needs of the team but also of the City.

In addition to the Wild, this venture provides the opportunity to expand the City's partnership with Hamline University, beyond CHS field, to provide them with a home sheet of ice for the Pipers. The Wild will only need the ice sheet for a few hours each day during non-prime hours, so there is also an opportunity to develop additional programming for other users such as youth hockey, broomball, coach's clinics, adult leagues and open skating for the public.

This project will provide both short-term and long-term economic stimulus. Initially through construction jobs during the renovation, but also through the "life" that the other businesses and their employees will bring by filling a renovated and vibrant Macy's building

Lastly, not practicing at the Xcel Energy Center will free up dates to book more arena events to come to St. Paul and the economic benefits that accrue from those additional visitors coming to our City.

In working with the Saint Paul Port Authority as a lead tenant, the Wild's participation has drawn the interest from the other tenants that will make the revitalization of this downtown location a reality. However all of this promise, but for the use of TIF, would not be possible.

For this reason we would ask for your support in using TIF on this very important project for St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Craig Leipold