



**Advocating Success For St. Paul's Diverse East Side Business Community**

February 11, 2015

Department of Planning & Economic Development  
Zoning Section  
1400 City Hall Annex  
25 Fourth Street W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102

RE: Planning Commission Action on Dominion Apartments on E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Dear Sir/Madam:

The East Side Area Business Association is committed to being an organization that provides meaningful connections to our diverse businesses, cultures, and community organizations. We collaboratively provide opportunities to business owners to be active citizens and experience business growth. Members are dedicated to the development of the East Side by supporting one another through sharing unique perspectives and various talents with the overall success of the community at the forefront of our minds.

It is in this context that on February 6, 2015 the Board of Directors discussed the City Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission approvals for the development of affordable senior housing apartments by Dominion on the former Hospital Linen site. The members applauded this significant investment in a property that for years was left vacant, thus limiting business growth and development on E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Vacant land and buildings have a negative impact in communities seeking entrepreneurial investment in active business districts. The construction taking place on the Metropolitan State University campus and the new Mississippi Market are strong indicators of the potential for continued investment in the future of this important business corridor on the East Side. We feel the investment in quality housing is a significant source for new customers and new attitudes about a community that has faced many challenges. As business leaders committed to a promising future for the East Side, we unanimously voted full support for the project.

ESABA'S Vision is that St. Paul's East Side is a destination for food, culture, entertainment, and an economic engine for entrepreneurship and innovation. Quality housing, transit options, access to quality jobs and a supportive business environment all lead to the realization of this vision.

Sincerely,

*Steven J Ledin*

Steve Ledin  
President of Board of Directors

cc: Owen Metz, Dominion  
Kathy Lantry, President of City Council