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May 14, 2026

Minneapolis City Council  
City Hall – Room 370  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

SUBJECT: Nominating Erik Hansen to the appointed position of Director of Community Planning and Economic Development

Dear Council President Payne, Council Vice President Osman, and Council Members,

With this letter, I am nominating Erik Hansen for the four-year appointed term of Director of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED).

Under Mr. Hansen's leadership, CPED is addressing community's basic needs while delivering high-quality customer service. The department has sustained historic levels of investment in housing, directing \$90 million into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund over the past five years and supporting the creation or preservation of nearly 4,000 housing units. CPED continues to support business and real estate growth through free technical assistance, direct financing, and project development. Last year, the department's technical assistance programs delivered more than 6,000 hours of support to entrepreneurs. Over the past six years, the Ownership and Opportunity Fund has helped 27 businesses purchase commercial property with \$13.6 million in assistance. Major strategic projects—including New Nicollet and the Upper Harbor Terminal—have moved from planning into site work and predevelopment. Across all programs, CPED maintains a strong equity focus, with at least 70% of participants identifying as BIPOC.

Mr. Hansen and the CPED team are actively shaping the physical and economic future of Minneapolis. Through implementation of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan and improvements across the development process, the city continues to grow. CPED has processed \$1 billion in permit valuation every year for the past 15 years. In the last three years, the department has removed barriers to development by launching the rocket docket, expanding administrative review, and reducing regulatory burdens to encourage investment, progress that Mr. Hansen is committed to continuing in the coming years.

Through Mr. Hansen's leadership, CPED is building a stronger department, stronger partnerships, and a stronger Minneapolis—one where all people, businesses, and communities have the opportunity to thrive.

I request that the City Council forward his name as the person we are considering for appointment to the role of Director of Community Planning and Economic Development and refer it to proper Council Committee for a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey

Cc: Casey Carl, City Clerk