



City Council Member Jamison Whiting – 11th Ward

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Council Member Jamison Whiting Letter of Support for the Reappointment of Erik Hansen as the Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development Department

I, Jamison Whiting, Minneapolis City Council Member for the Eleventh Ward, proudly support the renomination of Erik Hansen as the Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department.

In this pivotal moment for Minneapolis, as our City continues its economic recovery in the aftermath of Operation Metro Surge, having steady, experienced leadership at the helm of CPED has never been more important. Director Hansen has demonstrated a deep understanding of the complex zoning, housing, and business licensing ecosystems that drive our local economy. He has consistently shown a willingness to collaborate with Council Members, City staff, and community stakeholders to find pragmatic solutions to some of our most pressing challenges.

Throughout his tenure, Director Hansen has championed unprecedented investments in affordable housing, allocating \$90 million through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund over the last five years. He has expanded housing opportunities across Minneapolis by supporting the development and preservation of nearly 4,000 homes. By investing \$13.6 million over six years into 27 businesses to acquire commercial property through the Ownership and Opportunity Fund, Director Hansen materially increased pathways to wealth-building and commercial ownership. Ushering in significant projects from the concept and planning phase into implementation, he has advanced transformational community initiatives, including New Nicollet and the Upper Harbor Terminal.

Perhaps most importantly, CPED, like all City departments, should be helmed by leaders who support our City employees who do the day-to-day work of keeping Minneapolis running. To quote Director Hansen from his nomination hearing:

The 238 professionals of CPED come to work every day with a shared purpose: to grow a vibrant, livable, equitable, sustainable, and safely built City for everyone. They are planners, housing experts, permit specialists, economic development professionals, project managers, analysts, inspectors, and innovators. Their experience and dedication are the foundation of every single success we achieve.

I could not agree more. CPED employees have a worthy champion in Director Hansen, one who will ensure they are able to continue doing their vital work to support our small businesses, build out our affordable housing infrastructure, and ensure that our City's economic development benefits all Minneapolis residents.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his reappointment.

Sincerely,

Jamison Whiting, Ward 11 City Council Member