

# REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



**To:** MAYOR & COUNCIL

**Agenda Item #:** IX. A.

**From:** Debra Mangen  
City Clerk

**Date:** February 3, 2014

**Subject:** Correspondence

**Action**   
**Discussion**   
**Information**

**Action Requested:**

No action is necessary.

**Attachment:**

Attached is correspondence received since the last Council meeting.

Deb Mangan

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**From:** Vicoula4@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 10:42 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Re: Fred Richards

Dear Council Members and Park and Rec Department:

I attended the meeting last night at Braemar. As a long time resident of Edina and current resident on Sedum Lane, I am very upset with the plan to close Fred Richards Golf Course.

The first item on the list was to close Fred Richards. No afterthought, just close it and start pouring money into Braemar Golf course. What seems to be missing in all this discussion is how will Fred Richards be re-purposed. There is no definitive response to that question. It is always a vague response as to the possibilities. It should not be closed until that question is definitely answered so residents know. This answer should be as much a part of the process as what your plans are for Braemar. Fred Richards should not be closed, and then start thinking of what to do with the land. That planning needs to be occurring consecutively and be communicated clearly and in detail with the residents.

Also, re-purposing will also cost money; which bucket will that come from, seeing as money will be diverted to Braemar? It will cost to develop the land for a new purpose and to maintain it. If it is converted to a type of Centennial Lakes park, there is no real revenue coming from that.

The statements were made about all the improvements that would be made to Braemar and to market it more. What about marketing Fred Richards. I never see any promotion for that golf course.

More thought should be given to solutions to keep both golf courses open, including managing each better. Closing Fred Richards is a mistake.

Sincerely,

Vicki Withers  
4504 Sedum Lane  
Edina, MN 55435

**From:** Halling, Barton R <Barton.Halling@umr.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 10:09 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Fred Richards...meeting last night

Mayor Hovland,

First, I want to thank you for your attendance at the meeting last night – it was good to see you there and I believe very important that you heard what was shared by your constituents, of which I am one. My wife and I made a conscious decision when our kids reached school age that we would move to Edina. We even scouted the Cornelia neighborhood and put 3x5 cards in mailboxes – introducing ourselves to homeowners and asking them if they ever decided to sell that they give us a call – which is how we eventually came to own our home on Gilford Drive. We specifically chose the South Garden Estate area for a few reasons:

1. Proximity to Cornelia Elementary
2. Walkable, safe neighborhood with no through streets and traffic patterns
3. Evidence of a high concentration of young families
4. Proximity to parks (Cornelia, Rosland) and the pool
5. AND very specifically – proximity to Fred Richards Golf Course

We have lived in the neighborhood for what will be 15 years come September. All 4 of our children (now 18, 16, 15, and 14) learned how to play golf at Fred Richards. I have been golfing since I was 7 yrs old and believe it is one of the best lifetime sports/pastimes available to us. My dad introduced me to golf and the many life lessons about patience, etiquette, hard work, honesty, focus, competition, etc. – it provides. Our boys grew to love the game and the fact that they could put their clubs on their backs and walk 2.5 blocks to the course was a big part of that. They developed weekly summer games and leagues with friends. They grew in their confidence/independence and learned how to make tee times through TeeMaster – as well as develop a great relationship with the staff at the Fred Richards clubhouse. Our two oldest boys built a love for the game that led them to their first jobs as caddies at Interlachen CC.

We still play regularly and have spent many, many incredible hours and days on the Fred Richard course with friends and family. Both of my parents have golfed for many years and live in Edina during summers (snowbirds in FL during winter). We have enjoyed some incredible 3-generation rounds on the course together – and the Fred is a great place for seniors like my parents who no longer play regulation courses (with 7 different titanium joint replacements between them – Fred Richards is perfect and still walkable). The course has also been a big factor in driving community connection in the neighborhood. I have played for 12+ years with a group of dads on Saturday mornings each week during the season – and have valued those friendships and the ability to spend 2 hours in friendly competition while sharing about life's joys and challenges and learning what it means to be in community with neighbors.

All of that said – I am absolutely embarrassed that our Park Board and supposed strategic leadership believes that closing Fred Richards is the right move for this community. If ever there was a black and white conclusion to draw on a community issue, this seems to be it. The feedback and community support for keeping, and even enhancing/improving Fred Richards, was overwhelming and obvious last night...as was the open and clear disregard that they planning process had and has for the input from those of us that live in Edina – and have a stake in this decision. I am very disappointed in the Park Board/Park Staff and City Council on a number of fronts, including but not limited to the following:

- Unbelievable and unacceptable that all 5 of the city council members were not in attendance. As I stated earlier, thank you very much for being there – but the statement was made loud and clear by the other council members that either they have already made up their minds, or they just don't care about hearing what residents have to say. No better forum for them to get the information they need to make an informed decision

than that meeting last night. Why were Josh Sprague, Mary Brindle, Joni Bennett and Ann Swenson not in attendance?

- Unacceptable and offensive how little information was provided around the rationale for recommending the closure of Fred Richards.
- Unacceptable that there was no transparency and no information provided around how long the Park Board/Staff team has been working to develop this proposal.
- Unacceptable that only one proposal was provided with no alternatives
- Unacceptable that the timeframe provided for making a decision is 30 days when negotiations have been in the works with developers, city planners, city council members for well over a year with no input from residents impacted by the decision.
- Amazing that there was an attempt to isolate golf operations and specifically the Fred Richards golf course when analyzing cost structures and the Park Board P&L. Very enlightening to hear from a resident (not a city official presenting last night) that other amenities like the Braemar Hockey Arena require subsidization in the neighborhood of \$650k annually from the Edina liquor fund – and carry heavy debt load of over \$2.3 million. How is it that a different criteria is being used for a golf course that was fully paid off (as of 1/1/2013) with no debt service/load, and is operating at or near positive cash flow? Don't get me wrong, I have 3 kids who have spent years in the EHA system and I have coached EHA Hockey for 11 years as a volunteer – but that shifting criteria is just wrong and stinks of backroom agenda.
- Frustrating to hear that general mismanagement of the overhead costs associated with universal golf operations in Edina has lead to an “allocation” financial model that drives an appearance of financial downfall at Fred Richards. On the contrary – it appears that Fred Richards, in economics 101 speak, is the golf operation's “cash cow”. Acquired at an incredibly low capital cost – fully paid off – generating incremental revenue for the city – operating at or near cash flow positive – and engaging the next generation of customers and golf aficionados that will utilize the championship courses and range/clubhouse facilities at Braemar. We should be investing in/improving/leveraging Fred Richards instead of closing it. How can the team have possibly come to a different conclusion?

I would guess that you know from your interaction with Edina residents that we are blessed with a community full of reasonable, intelligent, articulate, resourceful and creative individuals. On a whole, we certainly expected and I believe deserve more due diligence and better informed recommendations on a critical community situation than what was delivered last night. I have full confidence that you will represent what was said, shared and discussed last night with your fellow council members and take appropriate action to eliminate the closure of Fred Richards from the set of recommendations provided last night.

I also think that there is a wonderful opportunity to leverage advocates for Fred Richards from the community who bring specific talents and skills that would be helpful in setting a strategy to expand the positive impact Fred Richards has on golf operations in Edina in general. I can forsee a sub-committee coming together to help with that effort in the next several weeks – and look forward to what they may come up with for alternative suggestions.

I apologize for the long letter and appreciate the time you took to read it. I will not apologize for standing up for saving this valuable resource in our community. Thanks in advance for your attention and assistance in this matter. Please feel free to write or call if you would like to discuss further.

Regards,

BH

**Bart Halling**  
**Edina Resident – Gilford Drive**  
**[Bhalling11@gmail.com](mailto:Bhalling11@gmail.com) – or – [barton.halling@umr.com](mailto:barton.halling@umr.com)**

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Deb Mangen

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**From:** Katherine Bass <kmsbass@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 10:08 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Meeting public needs with Grandview

Dear Edina City Council,

I'd like to add my voice to the growing chorus that we have a tremendous public asset in the Grandview site that should not be handed over for private development without a comprehensive plan for the area that demonstrates how we will meet public needs. I participated in two of the public meetings during the Grandview visioning process at Centennial Lakes Pavillion and heard many residents talk about the need for public gathering space, meeting space, green space with water, space for young people and, especially, the transportation challenges of the Grandview site. If you participated in any of those sessions, I'm sure you heard the same.

Some time ago, I had an opportunity to talk with Colleen Carey, of Cornerstone Development Group, about the Grandview site. The question she asked that has lingered with me is, "how will you achieve your vision for the whole area when you're only focusing on this one small parcel?" Her staff member recommended we consider a ULI Developers Roundtable session for the area, and a step further, develop a plan for the area.

I find it unlikely that we will have met the public needs uncovered during the visioning process by pursuing our current course. Please press "pause" on your plans to sell or lease this land for private development until we can be sure that the community's needs will be met with this amazing asset.

I recently heard a national expert on placemaking say "Public spaces are the new 'anchor tenant'" -- by creating an amazing public space, we can attract and drive private redevelopment throughout the Grandview area, and retain this space for all Edina residents.

Thank you. I'd be happy to talk further with any of the Council members on this matter.

Katherine Bass  
6917 Gleason Road  
Edina, MN 55439  
612-597-0714

**Deb Mangen**

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**From:** Lorenzo Tunesi <lorenzo.tunesi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 10:05 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Fred Richard Golf Course Feedback

Apologies if this is a duplicate. I may have had an email problem.

Dear City Council Members,

My thoughts about the Fred Richards Golf Course and the adjacent small Lake Edina Park:

While you ponder what to do with that land in the future I would like you to consider the fact that the area could use a "proper" park with walking and biking paths as well as play areas for kids. I think that such a park would offer amenities that this corner of Edina lacks. Those amenities would be within walking distance for the area and would offer a much needed green space to all neighborhood residents including to all the people who live in the Park Lawn area apartments.

Full disclosure: I don't play golf and I am sometimes mildly irritated by the amount of public land used by golf courses and the fact that they are reserved to the few that play the game.

Best regards,

Lorenzo Tunesi

4413 Ellsworth Dr

Edina, MN 55435

Deb Mangen

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**From:** J B <jab229@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 7:09 AM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Save the Fred

Dear Mayor Hovland,

Thank you for attending last night's public hearing about the future of the Golf program in Edina. As a resident on West Shore Drive, I am concerned about the future of the Fred Richards property. At the hearing last night, I learned about several assets of this 'gem' in Edina as a golf course and heard no alternative better use plans for the property.

- Youth golf is an important program which has a long, positive history at Fred Richards. Destroying the Fred limits the opportunities for new golfers to practice and become proficient, providing players for the next generation of golfers.
- At least two people hinted that the Fred was an amenity in attracting new businesses to the Pentagon Park area.
- No evidence was presented that the Fred is losing proportionately more money than the Braemar course.
- The Fred provides green space and drainage in the southeast quadrant of town. Without a plan for alternative use, the neighbors are concerned that building or other blight--fallow land, for example--will take over. When we moved to the neighborhood 20 + years ago, the land was fallow and unsightly; we do not want that repeated.
- One resident mentioned a possible home valuation decline if the properties on the north side of the course no longer abutted a golf course. In 2013 a million-plus dollar house was built on the golf course; I cannot think of another property use which would help that house retain its value
- Finally, I am appalled that the destruction of the Fred seems a foregone conclusion without adequate opportunity for citizen input. As a resident and significant taxpayer, I was hopeful that I would have input into this decision, even as our neighborhood had input into the sidewalk on Hibiscus and the Normandale access road.
- Without more specifics as to the cost burden of the Fred vs the course burden of the Golf Dome or Braemer Exec or the full course, we citizens are distrustful of the City's blanket "the Fred is too expensive and must go" position.

Thank you for reading and reflecting on this issue.

Sincerely,  
JoAnn Blatchley  
7432 West Shore Drive

**Deb Mangen**

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**From:** cavender.ben@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 9:36 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Fred Richards

Very disappointed by the presentation tonight. The notion that we would save \$750,000 over the next few years by closing the course when we don't even know what the alternative use (and therefore cost) would be is insulting. Either our city staff is not that smart, or they don't have a lot of respect for our intelligence.

Ultimately, it does not seem this is really about saving money. If it is about supporting other activities -- soccer and lacrosse -- the people leading this effort should be honest about it. Then we can debate it on its merits.

Sent from my iPhone

**Deb Mangen**

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**From:** Tunesi, Lorenzo <ltunesi@hclib.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 2:49 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail  
**Subject:** Fred Richards Park

Dear City Council Members,

My thoughts about the Fred Richards Golf Course and the adjacent small Lake Edina Park:

While you consider what to do with that land in the future I would like you to think about the fact that the area could use a "proper" park with walking and biking paths as well as play areas for kids. I think that such a park would offer amenities that this corner of Edina lacks within walking distance.

Full disclosure: I don't play golf and I am sometimes mildly irritated by the amount of public land used by golf courses and the fact that they are reserved to the few that play the game.

Best regards,

Lorenzo Tunesi  
4413 Ellsworth Dr  
Edina, MN 55435

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HENNEPIN COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415-1842 612-348-9260

January 28, 2014

Mr. James Hovland  
Mayor  
City of Edina  
4801 West 50th Street  
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Hovland:

Minnesota Statutes Section 383B.77, which authorized the creation of the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HCHRA), requires the HCHRA to annually notify a municipal authority of activities the HCHRA may administer/facilitate within their communities.

The HCHRA has identified several suburban Hennepin County activities in the year 2014. Communities may exercise their option to *not* have the HCHRA administer one or more of the activities within their community by notifying the HCHRA in writing to that effect, within 45 days of the date of this notice:

- Minnesota Cities Participation Program, First-Time Homebuyer Mortgages – provides below-market interest rate home mortgage loans for low and moderate-income first-time homebuyers; homebuyers apply directly to Minnesota Housing on a first come, first serve basis – Valerie Hutchinson (612-348-4969).
- Minnesota Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program – assists low-income homeowners in financing basic home improvements that directly affect the safety, habitability, energy efficiency or accessibility of their homes – Jim Graham (612-348-2235).
- Minnesota Housing Emergency and Accessibility Loan Program – assists low-income, single family homeowners in addressing emergency conditions in the home or essential accessibility needs for a disabled resident (limited funding available) – Jim Graham (612-348-2235).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Gail Dorfman Chair	Jan Callison Vice-Chair	Mike Opat	Linda Higgins	Peter McLaughlin	Randy Johnson	Jeff Johnson
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- Home Accessibility Ramp Program – assists in the construction of accessibility ramps and/or low-riser steps for low- and moderate-income disabled homeowners – Carol Stinar (612-348-2670).
- Affordable Housing Incentive Fund Program (AHIF) – provides capital funding to assist municipalities, other government and nonprofit agencies, private and nonprofit housing developers, and lenders in the development of long-term affordable housing units. Projects are selected through a competitive Request for Proposals process and require a supporting city council resolution before receiving assistance – Carol Stinar (612-348-2670).
- Lead-Safe Rehabilitation Assistance Program – provides financial assistance to property owners for lead-based paint hazard remediation in housing units serving low- and moderate-income households – Mike Jensen (612-348-2114).
- Transit Oriented Development Program (TOD) – provides capital funding to assist development proximate to priority transit corridors and hubs. Projects are selected through a competitive Request for Proposals process and must be in a recognized redevelopment area and receive a supporting city council resolution before receiving assistance – Thatcher Imboden (612-348-4191).
- Common Bond Fund Loan Program – provides long-term, low-interest, fixed asset revenue bond financing for suburban Hennepin County manufacturing and production businesses – Patricia Fitzgerald (612-543-0864).
- Open to Business – provides matching funds to cities to offer small business technical assistance to their entrepreneur community through the nonprofit Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers – Patricia Fitzgerald (612-543-0864).
- Economic Gardening – in collaboration with the Hennepin-Carver Workforce Investment Board, provides high-end technical assistance to companies that have grown beyond the startup phase and need access to information and decision-making tools typically only available to larger companies – Ron White (952-881-6577).
- Shelter Plus Care Rental Assistance – provides tenant-based rental assistance to low-income households through a third party provider (Hearth Connection) – Melisa Illies (612-348-2020).

Mayor Hovland  
January 28, 2014  
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We look forward to continuing to work with you in implementing these programs and to develop additional innovative approaches to address housing and community development needs. Please feel free to contact the staff person listed at the end of each program description for further details on the programs or specific funding allocations.

Sincerely,



Debra R. Brisk  
Deputy Executive Director

cc:    Commissioner Mike Opat                      Commissioner Linda Higgins  
         Commissioner Gail Dorfman            Commissioner Peter McLaughlin  
         Commissioner Randy Johnson          Commissioner Jan Callison  
         Commissioner Jeff Johnson  
         Scott Neal, City Manager

**Deb Mangen**

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**From:** deborahjopp@gmail.com on behalf of Deborah Jopp <deborah@metroblooms.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 4:33 PM  
**To:** Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); swensonann1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Metro Blooms 2014 Raingarden Workshops Press Release  
**Attachments:** 2014 Raingarden Workshops Press Release.docx

Dear Mayor Hovland and Council Members,

We are pleased to let you know about this year's raingarden workshop offerings presented by Metro Blooms! Locations for these workshops are offered throughout the metropolitan area including the City of Edina. Metro Blooms is a non-profit organization that has worked for 30 years to strengthen communities by promoting environmentally sound landscaping that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment.

We request your assistance promoting these workshops to your constituents by publicizing the attached news release. Thank you for helping us to get the word out.

Think Spring!

--

**Deborah Jopp**  
Administrative Assistant

Metro Blooms  
PO Box 17099  
Minneapolis, MN 55417  
(651) 699-2426 office

[www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org)



For Immediate Release & Posting  
 Contact: Barbara Speltz, 612-801-9321

**Metro Blooms presents Raingardens and Beyond: Healthy Yards, Clean Water**

You can help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean by the simple changes you make in your yard care choices. This workshop explores the latest in healthy yard care practices, including proper use of fertilizers, disposal and reuse of yard waste, keeping sidewalks ice free and managing runoff onsite. This workshop is designed to move participants quickly from an overview of healthy yard care practices to a completed raingarden design for their property with one-on-one assistance from Metro Blooms landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners. (Part A is an overview of raingarden design and healthy landscape practices. Part B will include individual time with a landscape designer and Master Gardener.)

Register now. Some locations fill up fast. The \$10-15 workshops will be offered from late-February to late-June.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Feb. 22</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>11-11:50 AM</i>	<i>Black Box Theater, Civic Plaza, Bloomington – PART A (FREE!) at Home Improvement Fair</i>
<i>Feb. 25</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6-8 PM</i>	<i>Public Works Training Room, Bloomington – PART B (only for participants who attended the Part A Bloomington workshop)</i>
<i>Feb. 27</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-9 PM</i>	<i>Edina Public Works Building– PART A/B</i>
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-9 PM</i>	<i>St. Louis Park Rec Center – PART A/B</i>
<i>April 29</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>6:30-8 PM</i>	<i>Columbia Manor Reception Hall – PART A</i>
<i>May 3</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>9-10 AM</i>	<i>Kenny Community School - PART A (during Blooms Day event)</i>
<i>May 3</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>10:30 AM-12:30 PM</i>	<i>Kenny Community School - PART B (during Blooms Day event)</i>
<i>May 8</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-9 PM</i>	<i>Fridley Community Center - PART A/B</i>
<i>May 10</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>10 AM-1 PM</i>	<i>Longfellow Park Rec Center, Minneapolis – PART A/B</i>
<i>May 22</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>6-9 PM</i>	<i>Kenwood Community Center, Minneapolis – PART A/B</i>
<i>June 4</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6-9 PM</i>	<i>Nokomis Park Rec Center, Minneapolis – PART A/B</i>
<i>June 28</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>1-4 PM</i>	<i>North Regional Library, Minneapolis – PART A/B (FREE!)</i>

*Whether you are an experienced gardener or have never tried gardening before, these eco-friendly workshops will help you learn how to:*

- Capture rainwater on site with raingardens.*
- Redirect your downspouts and install a rain barrel.*
- Plan your own garden with one-on-one assistance from landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners.*
- Use beautiful native plants in your landscape.*
- Adopt healthy yard care practices for you and for our clean waters.*

*Participants are also eligible for a low-cost onsite consultation and raingarden design rendering from a landscape design professional.*

*"Metro Blooms has been partnering with Twin Cities Metro communities to provide low-cost raingarden workshops since 2005," said Metro Blooms Executive Director Becky Rice. "In 2013 alone, over 400 workshop attendees installed 140 raingardens. An average-sized residential raingarden captures approximately 400 gallons of runoff every time it rains 1 inch, so one can see the substantial impact that residents can make."*

***To register, visit [www.myraingarden.org](http://www.myraingarden.org) or call 651-699-2426. Or mail payment to Metro Blooms, Raingarden Workshop Registration, P.O. Box 17099, Minneapolis., MN 55417. Enclose a check, payable to Metro Blooms and be sure to include the workshop location, your name, address, zip code, phone number and email address. Fee: \$10-15 per workshop.***

*Sponsored in part by the cities of Minneapolis, Edina, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Fridley, as well as Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Rice Creek Watershed District and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.*

*Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization, works to strengthen communities by promoting environmentally-sound landscaping that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment.*

January 24, 2014

Mayor James B. Hovland

4801 West 50<sup>th</sup> St.

Edina, Mn. 55424

I experienced a near-fainting episode on January 19, 2014 while visiting "It's a Pet's Life" in Centennial Lakes Mall. Mike and Pete, Paramedics from the Edina Fire Department responded to the 911 call. They assessed my situation with precise and efficient expertise. At all times, I was treated with the utmost dignity.

After the assessment, their recommendation was that I be transported to a Hospital for further evaluation. I declined the recommendation, which was absolutely correct considering the circumstances. They respected my decision and assisted in arranging a ride home for me, as they insisted that I not drive my car.

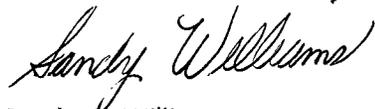
I arrived home safely, and realized that it would be helpful for me to have my EKG. I telephoned the Station with this request. Mike informed me that he would attempt to find it and call me. Later, my doorbell rang, and Mike and Pete personally delivered the original EKG.

I am especially impressed with the care I received, as I am an RN with a background in Cardiac Nursing from Abbott Northwestern Hospital, thus being familiar with emergency care evaluations. Mike and Pete were impressive in all aspects of their care and recommendations.

Edina is very fortunate to have such skilled Paramedics available to serve their citizens. Profuse thanks to them for their caring professionalism.

p.s. I am feeling much better now.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra K. Williams".

Sandra K. Williams

January 21, 2014

Mayor James Hovland  
Edina City Hall  
4801 W 50th St  
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Hovland,

The Southwest LRT (METRO Green Line extension) offers us an opportunity to accelerate the already positive economic momentum of the greater Twin Cities region while simultaneously moving our regional transit system closer to being the modern, intermodal system residents' desire.

Our vision is to build a line that will connect the projected 30,000 daily riders to the 210,000 jobs currently located along the route and the additional 60,000 jobs anticipated along the corridor. Southwest LRT (SWLRT) will connect people living in communities from Eden Prairie to St. Paul to these jobs via a one-seat ride.

As Chair of the Metropolitan Council, I would like to thank you for your service on the SWLRT Corridor Management Committee (CMC) and also extend the opportunity for your continual representation as a member for the SWLRT Corridor Management Committee. We would also encourage you to identify and/or confirm your alternate's ability to serve on the CMC.

We would greatly appreciate hearing from you by January 27 to ensure you and alternate are properly notified of our February 5, 2014 meeting. Southwest LRT is an important transit investment project for our state and region, and we look forward to working together to advance the project.

Sincerely,



Susan Haigh  
Chair  
Metropolitan Council

CC: Scott Neal, City Administrator