Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Mayor RT Rybak

Council President
Barbara Johnson

Council Vice
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Cam Gordon

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Partnership for a Healthier America
2001 L Street, NW
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for creating the Play Streets program to get kids and communities all around the country active next year, and for this opportunity for Minneapolis to apply.

As you may know, Minneapolis is a national leader in physical activity. We have been ranked one of the best biking cities in the country, with 81 miles of on-street bikeways and 85 miles of off-street bikeways, and adding more every year. The city has been awarded a Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community Award and a Gold-level Walk Friendly Community.

Minneapolis has held two very successful Open Streets events in our Uptown area, in 2011 and 2012. Completely volunteer-run, these events have been so popular that more neighborhoods have been clamoring for them, which is why we will host a third event this fall on our North side.

We're excited to organize at least four Open Streets events next year with the Partnership's support. This is a tremendous opportunity to build on past successes and increase the number of events to make sure we're reaching all parts of the city, the physical activity and nutrition education we provide for kids, the continuing impact of each event, and the sustainability of the program.

Play Streets funding will help the City do more to support Open Streets events by becoming an official cosponsor, and we look forward to working with the Partnership to build an Open Streets program that will establish spaces for physical activity, promote social change, encourage economic development and build social capital for years to come.

Thank you again for your leadership on increasing the health of our nation's children,

Mayor RT Rybak

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