



The City of Minneapolis

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL



Urging the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Sports Facility Authority to Design a Bird-Safe Stadium

By Palmisano, Gordon, Yang, Glidden, Cano, Bender, and Andrew Johnson

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis plays host to many seasonal migrant bird species, who rely on the metropolitan area for critical stop-over habitat each spring and fall; and,

Whereas, forty percent of all North American waterfowl use the Mississippi River as a navigational aid; and,

Whereas, on July 14, 2011, the City of Minneapolis implemented the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds; and,

Whereas, according to the Minnesota Audubon Society, the current design of the new stadium threatens to kill thousands of migratory birds; and,

Whereas, upgrading to bird-safe glass would add an estimated \$1.1 million to the cost of the stadium, or 0.1% of the overall project budget of over \$975 million; and,

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is contributing approximately \$150 million in local sales tax revenue to building the stadium, and the interests of the people of Minneapolis should be honored in the design of the stadium; and,

Whereas, on July 25, 2013, the City of Minneapolis Stadium Implementation Committee unanimously adopted as part of its final recommendations that "the design must comply with Minnesota Audubon guidelines for creating a bird safe structure... in addition, site lighting and exterior building illumination must comply with Minnesota Audubon guidelines for creating a bird safe environment"; and,

Whereas, on August 30, 2013, the Minneapolis City Council approved the construction of the stadium, “subject to conditions and mitigation measures” included in the Stadium Implementation Committee’s recommendations; and,

Whereas, it is clear from the Stadium Implementation Committee’s recommendations that bird-safe design is distinct from mitigation issues regarding nighttime site lighting and exterior illumination; and,

Whereas, in their comments on the stadium’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources stated that “mitigation measures identified as a result of coordination with the Audubon Society should be included in the Final EIS”; and,

Whereas, ensuring that the stadium is bird-safe will improve visitor experience and be good for the Vikings and Minnesota Sports Facility Authority in the long run,

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis calls on the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Sports Facility Authority to build a bird-safe stadium, in keeping with the recommendations of the Stadium Implementation Committee, the comments of the Department of Natural Resources, and the advice of the Minnesota Audubon Society.

Passed, August 1, 2014

Barbara Johnson, President of the Council

Approved:

Betsy Hodges, Mayor

Attest: _____
Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk