December 14, 2005

Rebecca Law
Project Manager
Minneapolis Public Works
Minneapolis CPED
105 5th Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Rebecca:

As you know, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and City of Minneapolis have been in the planning stages for redeveloping both the west and east banks of the Mississippi River, particularly the area upstream of Plymouth Avenue. Our joint planning efforts have provided for the master plan, titled - Above the Falls, which was adopted by the Park Board and the City in 2001. Since then, the Park Board has taken further planning steps to develop the schematic design along the west side of the river, known as Above the Falls – Phase I.

To date, much of the redevelopment efforts along the river have occurred south of Plymouth Avenue, however; today we are ready to begin improvements to the north. This area includes the riverbank and West River Road between Plymouth Avenue and the railroad tracks just north of 22nd Avenue N. The redevelopments efforts will include a 'parkway-like' experience, similar to the area south of Plymouth Avenue, and allow for a variety of recreation facilities.

Currently, this section of West River Road has been included in the 'Service Redesign' program, whereby the City maintains the roadway surface and the Park Board maintains the turf and landscaped area, including the riverbank. Past discussions between the City and Park Board over the ownership of the roadway Right-of-Way and riverbank have taken place. We are now at a point in time where the Park Board can take ownership and begin redevelopment efforts of the Phase I area.

By way of this letter, and for consideration of $1, I am asking that the City transfer ownership to the Park Board. Attached is a map showing the identified parcels. This transfer not only allows us to redevelop this stretch of river, but enables the availability for regional funding sources to be used. The City will likely realize much more in future tax revenue due to increased property values associated with being adjacent to parks, as has happened in the past.

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Superintendent
Jon R. Gurban

Secretary to the Board
Don Siggelkow

Administrative Offices
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227
Phone: 612-230-6400
Fax: 612-230-6500

Operations Center
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1000
Phone: 612-370-4900
Fax: 612-370-4831

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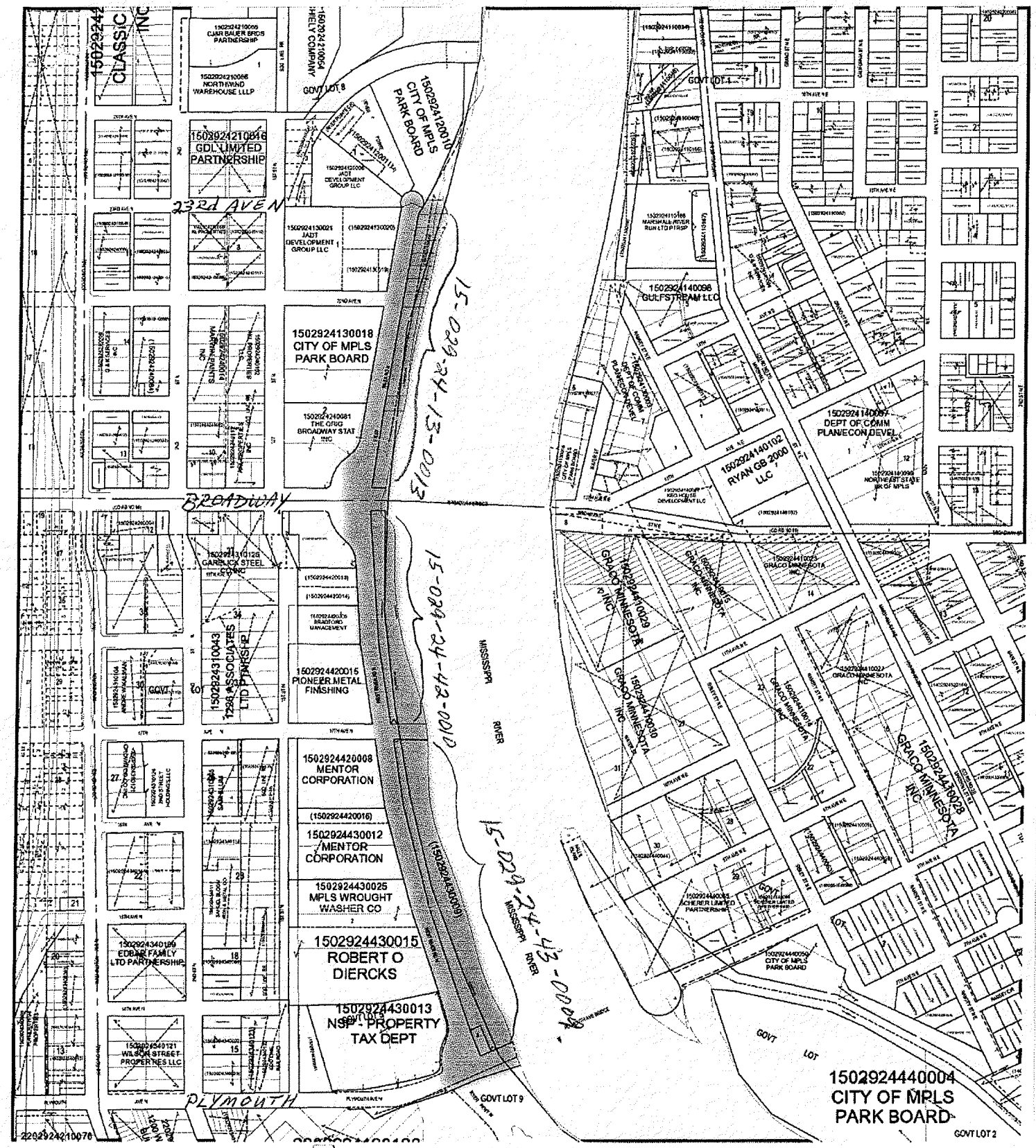
If there is any additional information you need, please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to working with you on this project. The development of Phase I – Above the Falls is a great example of how cooperative efforts make this city a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Jon Gurban
Superintendent

cc: President Jon Olson
Council Member Johnson-Lee
Council Member Samuels
Council Member Johnson
Judd Rietkerk
Nick Eoloff

Attachment



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