



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Office of the Mayor

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March 20, 2007

The Honorable Lisa Goodman, Chair
Community Development Committee
Minneapolis City Council
307 City Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55415

SUBJECT: Proposal to Name Metrodome Plaza as “Charles R. Krusell Memorial Plaza”

Dear Council Member Goodman:

Few people in Minneapolis could look in each direction and see how they had a hand in the growth and development of a community as much as Charles Krusell.

Krusell spent his life changing the face of the City of Minneapolis. His official positions gave him such titles as Executive Director of the Minneapolis Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Executive Director of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. His volunteer titles included founder and President of the Greater Minneapolis Metropolitan Housing Corporation, founding board member of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and founder of the Industry Square Development Corporation.

But more than these titles, it was Krusell’s vision and ability to move an idea through egos and bureaucracies that made him successful at getting projects done. When existing structures weren’t set up to do the job, he set up new ones. When opposing sides emerged on an issue, he helped find common ground. His legacy includes:

- 42 public housing high-rises, giving Minneapolis more affordable senior housing units per capita than any other American City of Minneapolis
- Urban renewal projects, including Milwaukee Avenue in the Seward neighborhood
- The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Minneapolis program
- The former Federal Reserve Bank building, the Minneapolis Convention Center, the Northwestern National Life Insurance Building
- The redevelopment of Mill Place, the first historic warehouse to be redeveloped along the Downtown Minneapolis riverfront, which

spurred the riverfront planning work that has directed the wholesale recreation of the Mills District

- All the affordable housing units created with the support of GMHC or the Community Housing Development Corporation
- The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome

Krusell was also mentor to scores of this generation of leaders in housing and community development in Minneapolis, including myself.

Charles Krusell passed away last December. Despite all his work to affect the built city around us, not one building, street or public plaza bears his name. He never sought recognition, of course, but he is worthy of it now.

The public plaza, owned by the City of Minneapolis immediately to the east of the Metrodome is generally known as “Metrodome Plaza”, but has never been formally named. It would be fitting tribute to name the plaza after Charles Krusell. Therefore, I would like to request that the City Council name the Metrodome Plaza as “Charles R. Krusell Memorial Plaza”. This would be a fitting tribute to his great contributions to Minneapolis. I have attached a proposed resolution that, if adopted by the City Council, would accomplish this result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rybak', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mayor R.T. Rybak