

Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Office of the Mayor

R. T. Rybak
Mayor

350 South 5th Street - Room 331
Minneapolis MN 55415-1393

Office 612 673-2100
Fax 612 673-2305
TTY 612 673-3187

Executive Committee
Approved
6-20-07

Executive Committee
City Hall – Room 333
350 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55413

SUBJECT: Nomination of Michael Christenson as Director of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development and Executive Director of The Minneapolis Community Development Agency.

Dear Executive Committee Members:

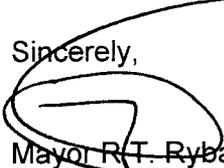
With this letter, I am pleased to nominate Michael Christenson be Director of the Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), for the term ending January 2, 2008, and the Executive Director of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) for the term ending January 2, 2008.

Mr. Christenson has been effective throughout his career in public service because he understands that great cities aren't built by isolated actions in City Hall, but through strong partnerships with the community. We created the Community Planning and Economic Development Department because we understood that, to be a great city, we need to weave together housing, jobs, transportation, safety and urban design. Today Minneapolis is reaping the rewards of this integrated approach. I am confident that Mr. Christenson is the right person to maintain this momentum and take the City and our neighborhoods to the next level.

Mr. Christenson will bring to CPED a broad background of community and public service. He has served as Director of Economic Development since 2003, where he led the City's successful effort to close the employment gap and also provided essential leadership on many development opportunities for the city, including the Global Market and Midtown Exchange, the Life Sciences Corridor, and development on the Northside. Prior to working for the city, Mike was the founding Executive Director for Allina Health Systems Foundation, Chief Administrator for Metro Transit, and an Attorney and Partner for the Popham, Haik Law Firm. Mike has a law degree from the University of Minnesota and an undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College. In addition to his professional and educational experience Mike serves on a variety of local civic and foundation boards.

I ask that today the Executive Committee appoint Mr. Christenson as CPED Executive Director of the MCDA and forward his name to the Community Development Committee for a public hearing.

Sincerely,



Mayor R.T. Rybak
Chair, Executive Committee

cc: Lisa Goodman, Chair of the Community Development
Committee