## By Gordon, Glidden, Hodges, Lilligren and Remington Authorizing Elected Officials to Create and Maintain City-Supported Blogs.

Whereas, weblogs (commonly known as "blogs") are an emerging communication technology with great promise to better connect constituents to their representatives; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis strives for the highest possible standard for communication between residents and government; and

Whereas, blogs allow constituents and others to provide interactive public comments and to comments on others' comments; and

Whereas, allowing blogs as a communication tool for Elected Officials may result in a more informed public and an open dialogue of ideas to better the governance of the City of Minneapolis;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That allowing Elected Officials to use City funds, supplies, equipment, and personnel to create and maintain a blog related to their official duties as Elected Officials (hereinafter, "City-supported blog") serves a public purpose.

Be It Further Resolved that Elected Officials must comply with City of Minneapolis or State of Minnesota contracting requirements if the Elected Officials want to enter into contracts for the creation or maintenance of their City-supported blogs.

Be It Further Resolved that Elected Officials and their staff are authorized to refer to their City-supported blogs in communication via City of Minneapolis e-mail systems.

Be It Further Resolved that Elected Officials and their staff are authorized to refer to their City-supported blogs in newsletters and other publications, with the exception that if an Elected Official is a "candidate" as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 10A.01, Subdivision 10, any reference to the City-supported blog in the newsletters and publications must be deleted before placing the newsletters and publications on the City of Minneapolis Council Ward Web Site or any part of the City's Web Site.

Be It Further Resolved that the City of Minneapolis shall not provide a link from the City of Minneapolis' Web Site to a City-supported blog of an Elected Official who is a "candidate" as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 10A.01, Subdivision 10.

Be It Further Resolved that an Elected Official shall not provide a link from the City-supported blog to any blog that is not supported by the City of Minneapolis if the Elected Official is a "candidate" as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 10A.01, Subdivision 10.

Be It Further Resolved that the City-supported blog sites will be limited public forums. The purpose of these limited public forums is to allow for an open discussion of issues related to the governance of the City of Minneapolis. In line with this purpose, the following are prohibited on the City-supported blogs:

- Defamatory comments
- Profane language
- Comments that promote, foster, or perpetuate discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability, affectional preference or sexual orientation
- Sexually explicit remarks or material
- Comments related to political campaigning
- Comments related to soliciting for charities, unless the charity is sponsored by the City of Minneapolis

Be It Further Resolved that the above purpose and prohibitions of the limited public forum must be clearly stated on the City-supported blogs and the Elected Officials and their staff are responsible for enforcing the purpose and above-listed prohibitions.

Be It Further Resolved that City-supported blogs are considered limited public forums, and that neither Elected Officials nor their staff will engage in viewpoint discrimination of comments which are within the purpose of the limited public forum and are not listed in the list of prohibitions above.

Be It Further Resolved that an Elected Official shall not post on the Citysupported blog his or her own comments that could be construed as advocating for a position on actions that will be taken by the City Council in a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Clerk's office is delegated authority to set guidelines and procedures for the use of City-supported blogs by Elected Officials and that the Elected Officials using City-supported blogs will assist in the creation of such guidelines and procedures.

Be It Further Resolved that within 6 months of the passage of this resolution, the City Clerk's office, with the assistance of the Elected Officials using City-sponsored blogs, shall submit a written report to the City Council advising of issues that have occurred, complaints made, procedures written or modified, and other issues of concern related to City-supported blogs.