



City Council

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Thom the Lake Harriet Elf
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Dear Mr. Little Guy,

As you may have heard, City Hall is putting on a party in recognition of your work. As your City Council Member, I want to take this moment to personally thank you for your service to our community. You have spent 20 years inspiring creativity and joy in children. You have found a unique way to contribute, one that deeply enhances our community and our daily lives.

I first saw your door when I was new to Minneapolis. Running around the lakes at night, I was worried about my safety. Seeing your door made me realize Lake Harriet was not just a park nearby, but a place I could call home. I look forward to when my toddler is old enough to scribe a note to you, and I hope that this cherished endeavor you began continues for many years to come. One reason I serve at City Hall is that someone cared enough about me as a child to teach me that I could make a difference. You close every letter with the simple—but powerful—statement: “I believe in you.” These words instill the understanding that each child is capable of making a difference.

I hope that by encouraging young people to come and explore City Hall on an occasion to honor you, our beloved elf, that we can also foster interest in our local government. The day your resolution is presented, my office will be offering tours to children. However, the hope is that these tours will continue bringing children to City Hall long after your party has ended.

While it’s not always easy, I love my job as an elected official. Years ago, when I was a new volunteer in my neighborhood organization, my Council Member invited me to City Hall to see the kind of work a local government does. Mayor Hodges’ outreach to me was a big inspiration in my decision to run for office, and I can only hope to provide that same encouragement of young people to get involved in their communities.

My intern, Gabe Epstein, has been working on this effort and he will bring by an invite as soon as it is ready. At the beginning of this day’s festivities, we will also present a resolution which will mark August 15 as Lake Harriet Elf Day. In preparation for the big day, I have a few questions, if I may ask for a bit of your time:

1. Would you like to receive this honor yourself, or would you like to designate—or have my office designate—a group of young people to accept it on your behalf?



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I understand your desire for anonymity and can assure you that we will respect and honor your wish to stay fully incognito.

2. Thank you for always believing in us. Do you have any thoughts or hopes for the future of our city that I could share when presenting this in front of my colleagues on City Council?

3. And most important, what kind of cake would you like for your birthday?

Thank you again for your incredible service to this community.

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Y. Inea". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "Y" and a period, followed by the name "Inea".