Department of Community Planning and Economic Development
Communications Department
City of Minneapolis
105 Fifth Avenue South, Ste. 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Media Advisory

Contact: Krista Bergert, CPED Communications, 612 673 5015, or by cell, 612 360 8702

Minneapolis-based Blu Dot relocates to recently revitalized Crown Center in Northeast Minneapolis

WHAT: Blu Dot Design and Manufacturing, Inc., a national furniture design and manufacturing company based in Minneapolis, has expanded its office space and relocated to Crown Center, a former steel fabrication facility where World War II B-26 wings were made. The opening of the new offices will be marked at a ceremony and open house. Blu Dot's move to Crown Center fits with other creative offices and companies housed there. Crown Center, a project by Hillcrest Development, LLLP, opened in 2008, in an effort to revitalize creative business and commerce in the city of Minneapolis.

WHO: Blu Dot, Hill Crest Development, LLLP, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, County Commissioner Mark Stenglein, Metropolitan Council Member Lynette Wittsack

WHEN: 10 a.m., Thursday, October, 8, 2009

WHERE: Blu Dot offices, Crown Center, 1331 Tyler Street NE

MORE: Blu Dot Design and Manufacturing, Inc. began in 1997 to design and manufacture furniture for everyday people with every day needs. Founded by John Christakos, Maurice Blanks and Charlie Lazor, Blu Dot has received several awards, and its work has been exhibited in several museums, including the Walker Art Center.

In looking for places to expand, Blu Dot founders chose the Crown Center in Northeast Minneapolis as the location of their offices and design studio. Extensive environmental contamination of the site deterred reinvestment and rehabilitation. The City worked with Hillcrest Development, LLLP and its partners to identify potential funding sources and craft competitive grant applications, resulting in five grants awards, totaling more than $1.6 million. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County funded contamination site clean-up.

The Crown Center opened in October 2008 and is a model for how the economic redevelopment of a blighted property can have a positive

effect on its surrounding neighborhood. The Crown Center now houses a variety of professional, industrial, medical, and creative businesses. Blu Dot joins Tactile Systems Technology, Inc., an innovative medical device company, Egan Field Nowak, a surveying company, and James Dayton Design in creating new and relocated jobs in Northeast Minneapolis.

# # #