

Metropolitan Council Candidate Applications – District 13

More than 200 applicants recently applied to serve on the [Met Council](#) representing one of its [16 districts](#). The [nominating committee](#) identified a few finalists from each district. The finalists from District 13 will be provided the opportunity to provide public testimony at the [Met Council offices](#) in St. Paul on Monday, February 11, 2019. The meeting begins at 6 p.m., but will also include the finalists from districts 11, 12, and 14, so the District 13 finalists will likely not begin speaking until later in the evening. The meeting will be streamed live on the Met Council's Twitter page, [@MetCouncilNews](#). Comments from the public will not be accepted at the meeting, but individuals may submit input regarding the candidates via email to katie.driscoll@metc.state.mn.us.

You may view the applications submitted by each of the District 13 finalists below. The finalists include:

- [Keith Franke](#)
- [Richard Kramer](#)
- [Chai Lee](#)
- [Jill Smith](#)
- [Avinash Viswanathan](#)

After their interviews, the finalists will be narrowed to three from each district, then the nominating committee will submit their recommendations to Governor Walz by February 18, 2019. Governor Walz intends to appoint council members by March 4, 2019.

The Met Council is also looking for new members to serve on its advisory committees. You may read about the committee openings and the application process [here](#).

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Application for the position District 13 Rep.

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Metropolitan Council

Position: District 13 Rep.

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Keith Franke

Phone: (651) 238-2920

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] St. Paul Park 55071

Email: franke454a@yahoo.com

County: Washington

Felony Conviction: Yes



Mn House District: 54A

US House District: 2

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type	
Cover Letter	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
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Type**File Name**

No additional documents found.

Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

Race and Natural Origin: White or Caucasian

Political Party: Republican

Age: 48

Gender: Male

Disability: No

Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin: No

Part V: Signature

Signature: keith franke

Date: 12/14/2018 12:37:42 PM

[APPLICANT INDEX](#)

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Keith Franke



St. Paul Park, M.N. 55071

651-238-2920

Thank you,

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this proposal for the district 13 Met council seat. I am excited to bring my skill set and experience within this community, along with my knowledge of past and present to this position. For example;

- Working and Positive relationships with all surrounding city administrations
- Working and Positive relationships with local community groups
- Working and Positive relationships with State and Local Agencies and Officials
- Ability to work within a team, compromise and take direction
- Lifelong resident and engaged community member
- Ability to deal with Media and Concerned Citizens in a positive and concerning manner
- Strategic planning and Budget experience
- Outreach and Education through engagement and feedback
- Ability to foster and maintain strategic and necessary relationships
- Knowledge and experience in legislative process and positive current relationships

These objectives can be met through my experience of years of community and government service. From being the Mayor of St. Paul Park, President of the St. Paul Park Economic Development Authority, and current State of Minnesota Representative for this area, along with 17 years of being a local business owner. From working with Governor Dayton and his staff to close an at grade uncontrolled rail crossing near the refinery for safety or helping to find a suitable placement for the Friends in Need food shelf from the refineries main property, along with the committees I served on and an appointment by Speaker Daudt to Chair a work group on treatment and addiction. I believe an opportunity in this administration allows me to do a lot of the work I could and would continue to enjoy and thrive at for years to come.

Willing to provide upon request, letters of support and recommendation from local mayors, council members, county commissioners, and state legislators from both sides of the aisle throughout District 13.

JOB EXPERIENCE:

MN State House of Representatives: 1/3/2017 to present

Current District 54A State Representative.

Serving on the local government and property tax, veterans, public safety, and capital investment committees. Work with all interested parties to pass comprehensive legislation, through discussion, feedback, research, and debate in committee and full session settings. Be accountable and understanding to citizen concerns and provide assistance when possible. Stay engaged in the community to understand the needs of our area. Chair of work group on treatment and addiction.

Mayor, City of St. Paul Park: 1/1/2012 to 1/3/2017

Responsible for annual budget and tax levy. City ordinance maintenance and enforcement, setting of meeting agendas, employment committee for contract negotiations and hiring of department directors, citizen engagement, media availability, working with surrounding communities on common goals, maintaining engagement with business community and non-profit organizations. Strategic and long term planning. Maintain positive relationships in all areas affecting the city.

St. Paul Park Economic Development Authority/President: 1/1/2012 to 1/3/2017

Responsible for maintaining a relationship with current businesses. Fostering relationships with new potential business. Marketing and engaging development within the city on all city owned and private land. Looking for new and innovative means to expand or assist existing businesses and attracting new ones. Maintain a budget for these purposes.

Park Café/Frankes Corner Bar Owner: 3/2001 and 5/2005 to present

Responsible for all aspects of running and maintaining these operations for multiple years. These businesses are located in St. Paul Park on Broadway Ave.

Relevant Education:

Hamline University School of Business: 2 Year Certificate in Economic Development

St. Paul College: 2 Year Certificate in Bar and Restaurant Management

I have also had multiple courses in various business management classes, emergency management training for public officials as mayor, along with public official training through the League of Minnesota Cities and the Minnesota Association of Mayors. 3 years on the Red Rock Corridor Commission, Regional Railway Commission, 3 years on the SWCTC Cable Commission and serving on and volunteering for various civic organizations.

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Application for the position District 13 Rep.

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Metropolitan Council

Position: District 13 Rep.

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Mr. RICHARD JF Kramer

Phone: (651) 774-4971

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] SAINT PAUL 551061406

Email: rjfkramer@aol.com

County: Ramsey

Felony Conviction: No

Mn House District: 67A

US House District: 4

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)	
Type	File Name
Letter of Recommendation	kramer-richard-recommendation-mccollum-metcouncil.pdf



Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

Race and Natural Origin: White or Caucasian

Political Party: Democratic-Farm-Labor

Age: 54

Gender: Male

Disability: No

Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin: No

Part V: Signature

Signature: Rich Kramer

Date: 11/26/2018 1:30:51 PM

APPLICANT INDEX

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Richard Kramer
Metropolitan Council Member, District 13

Summary of Planning & Civic Experience and Qualifications

PLANNING

Saint Paul Planning Commission

Appointed in 1994, reappointed to five additional terms by 3 mayors

Served as Zoning Committee Chair

First Vice Chair

Second Vice Chair

Communications Committee Chair

Comprehensive Planning Committee Member

Neighborhood Planning Committee Member

Steering Committee Member

Land Use Comprehensive Plan Chapter. Task Force, Chair

White Bear Avenue Small Area Plan Task Force, Member

Sun Ray/Suburban Small Area Plan Task Force, Member

Phalen Village Small Area Plan Task Force, Member

North East Corridor Development Plan Task Force, Member

Phalen Corridor Development Strategy - Atlantic 1 Task Force, Chair

Arcade Street Small Area Plan Task Force, Member

ADDITIONAL CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Saint Paul Charter Commission, Chair

past Vice chair

Charter Review Committee member

Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals, alternate member

Independent School District 625

Citizens Budget Review Committee

City of Saint Paul Department of Parks & Recreation

Phalen-Keller Regional Park Master Plan Task Force, Chair

Eastside Heritage Park Design Advisory Committee, Chair

Saint Paul Tree Advisory Panel

Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority

North East Corridor Task Force, Member

Saint Paul Public Works Phalen Boulevard Design Advisory Committee, Member

City of Saint Paul Long Range Capital Budget Committee

Street & Utilities Task Force

Residential & Economic Development Task Force

Community Facilities Task Force

BUSINESS

Small business owner, RJF K Media Associates, Inc. printing, mailing and manufacturing

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Local 880, District Council 82 Member - 25 years

White Bear Avenue Business Association, past board member

Paybe Arcade Business Association, past board member

East Side Area Business Association, past board member

NEIGHBORHOOD

Saint Paul District 2 Community Council

Past president

Past vice president

Board of directors

Executive committee

Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll (2001)

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, District 13

Appointed 2011, Reappointed 2015

Vice chair, Management Committee

Member, Community Development Committee

Committee of the Whole

Robert Street Transit Planning Task Force

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Timothy J. Walz
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

ATTENTION: Mr. Andrew C. Olson

Re: Metropolitan Council Appointments: Richard Kramer

Dear Governor Walz:

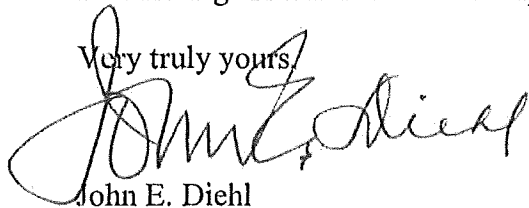
Richard Kramer has a distinguished record in public service, especially relating to municipal governance and administration in the St. Paul/Minneapolis Metropolitan Area. Thus, I enthusiastically recommend Mr. Kramer's reappointment as a member of the Metropolitan Council (District 13).

I have become acquainted with Mr. Kramer in two different roles. First, in my capacity as a member of the City Council of the City of Lilydale. Our city is in District 13 from which Mr. Kramer comes to serve on the Council, and we are familiar with his work in that capacity. I have always found Mr. Kramer to be interested in Lilydale's interactions with the Metropolitan Council and he is an effective colleague in our shared responsibility in city governance.

I am also a customer of his advertising/printing business, and I have found him to be knowledgeable, accommodating and responsive. It is respectfully submitted that this combination of private business experience, these personal traits and his experience in local government, not to mention his extensive service with the Metropolitan Council, make him extraordinarily well qualified to continue serving in this capacity.

I would urge Richard Kramer's reappointment to the Metropolitan Council.

Very truly yours,



John E. Diehl

Olson, Andrew C (GOV)

From: Adam Duininck <aduininck@ncsrcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 9:52 PM
To: Olson, Andrew C (GOV)
Subject: Rich Kramer for Met Council

Dear Gov. Walz, Chair Slawik and members of the Nominating Committee,

Thank you for your service to the state of Minnesota, the metropolitan region, and the work of choosing the members of the Metropolitan Council. As a former Council Member and Chair of the Metropolitan Council, I know how tireless and, oftentimes, how thankless the job can be. I also know how important it is for the delivery of critical services and the planning for thriving region.

In District 13, I urge you to support Rich Kramer. I have known and worked with Rich for over a decade. His service on the St. Paul planing commission and his engagement on planning and parks issue sets him apart from other Council Members and applicants. He has been a reliable advocate and a leader on important regional issues and projects. He has excellent relationships across the city of St. Paul which is critical to the success of any Council Member.

I urge you to support Rich Kramer for District 13 of the Metropolitan Council.

My Best,
Adam Duininck

Adam Duininck
651-341-0074
aduininck@ncsrcc.org

Director of Government Affairs
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Serving Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin

700 Olive Street
Saint Paul, MN 55130

www.northcountrycarpenter.org

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To receive text messages, text the phrase "NCSRCC" to the number 91990. Message and data rates may apply.



Sent from my iPad

Olson, Andrew C (GOV)

From: grimm005 University of Minnesota <grimm005@umn.edu>
Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2019 8:30 PM
To: Olson, Andrew C (GOV)
Subject: Met Council - District 13 Seat Recommendation

Honorable Governor Tim Walz and staff,

I wish to add my recommendation to the Metropolitan Council's process for appointing a member to the District 13 Seat. I highly recommend Richard Kramer be reappointed to this seat, to which he was first appointed in 2011 and reappointed in 2015.

The East Metro needs continuation of the kind of knowledgeable, insightful and dedicated representation on the Metropolitan Council that Mr. Kramer has demonstrated.

In my position as St. Paul City Councilmember for Ward 6, I represented the NE corner of St. Paul, the upper Eastside, from 1992-1995.

Mr. Kramer worked integrally with our office on major projects, including the Phalen Corridor/Phalen Boulevard planning, development and implementation process; the Phalen Village Small Area Plan, which resulted in phenomenal changes to the very center of the Eastside; and in crucial projects through his in-depth involvement in the District Council citizen participation process.

His experience includes both macro and micro level knowledge, including zoning and planning processes within the highly complex City of St. Paul network of housing and infrastructure.

While I served in City Hall, Mr. Kramer was appointed to the City of St. Paul Planning Commission, which handles some of the largest and critical issues facing our city. The decision to appoint Mr. Kramer was unanimous by the City Council, with reappointment for 5 additional terms by 3 different mayors.

Mr. Kramer's commitment to public service and his proven experience have been an asset to the region, and I strongly recommend his reappointment to the Metropolitan Council District 13 seat.

Feel free to contact me for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marie Grimm
Former St. Paul City Councilmember, Ward 6, 1992-1995

St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 774-7588



January 23, 2019

The Honorable Tim Walz
The Honorable Peggy Flanagan
State of Minnesota

**RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR RICHARD KRAMER
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, DISTRICT 13**

Dear Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan:

I am pleased to recommend the reappointment of Richard Kramer for District 13 Council Member of the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Kramer has been active in numerous aspects of municipal government and civic leadership. He has served as the Vice chair of the Metropolitan Management Committee; a member of the Community Development Committee, Committee of the Whole and the Robert Street Transit Planning Task Force.

Mr. Kramer has a collaborative approach in working with others which is instrumental in addressing and resolving the issues and needs of the region, particularly in the key area of transit. He has extensive knowledge and experience having served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Saint Paul from 1994 through 2011, and serving as the Chair of the Saint Paul Charter Commission.

Mr. Kramer has served as a District 13 Council Member of the Metropolitan Council since 2011. His experience demonstrates a commitment to a metro-wide viewpoint which is essential for his continued service on the Met Council. I am confident that Mr. Kramer will continue to be an integral part of the regional and state efforts to ensure long-term growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Hanson
Maple Grove City Council Member

BETTY McCOLLUM
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

2256 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6631
FAX: (202) 225-1968

661 LA SALLE STREET
SUITE 110
SAINT PAUL, MN 55114
(651) 224-9191
FAX: (651) 224-3056

www.house.gov/mccollum



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER,
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ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

CONGRESSIONAL
GLOBAL HEALTH CAUCUS,
CO-FOUNDER

CONGRESSIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS,
CO-CHAIR

January 7, 2019

The Honorable Tim J. Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Richard Kramer for re-appointment to the Metropolitan Council, District 13. As a member of the Council during the past eight years, Mr. Kramer brings valuable experience to regional planning and transit. His continued service would benefit the vital work of the Metropolitan Council on behalf of residents at a critical time for our region.

I have known Mr. Kramer for more than twenty years and know him to be a dedicated and hardworking person who cares deeply about the East Side of Saint Paul, as well as our entire community and state. In the past, Mr. Kramer served in key community leadership roles, including chairing the Northeast Corridor taskforce to plan for transportation needs in the northeastern Saint Paul/Maplewood area, chairing the Saint Paul Planning Commission Zoning Committee and serving on the Phalen Corridor Initiative board.

As a member of the Metropolitan Council representing District 13 since 2011, he has well-represented his community, serving as a knowledgeable and effective advocate for the Gateway Corridor (Gold Line) and the development of a balanced regional transit system. As the Gold Line and other regional transit corridors progress through their next development phases, his leadership will be particularly valuable.

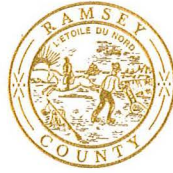
Mr. Kramer is respected by elected officials throughout the region and is appreciated for his long-time leadership on behalf of Saint Paul and the entire Metropolitan area. He would continue to be an asset to the Metropolitan Council, bringing his exceptional expertise in community and regional planning to the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Metropolitan Council
JAN 28 2019
Received Chair's Office



JIM McDONOUGH

Chair

Board of Ramsey County Commissioners

Joann Ellis, Assistant
TEL. (651) 266-8357

January 24, 2019

220 Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
TEL. (651) 266-8350

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Nora Slawik
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Governor Walz and Chair Slawik:

We are writing on behalf of the candidacy of Richard Kramer for Metropolitan Council, District Thirteen. We have both known Rich Kramer for many years and can speak to his valuable involvement, dedication and competence in local government. He has been tireless in bringing a competent, measured and problem-solving voice for whichever project or planning effort he has been called upon to participate. We give you our unqualified recommendation of his candidacy.

Rich has been involved in the city, county and regional planning projects for more than twenty years in a formal capacity as a member of task forces and other committees as delineated in his resume. Being a Metropolitan District Council Member would be an appropriate next step to utilize his well-developed skills and collaborative talents. To know and to work with him is to realize the wealth of institutional memory operating in tandem with his current agenda – which is always to achieve a more livable and sustainable community.

Rich operates with an enviable ability to chart an outcome for a particular project while it is still in the initial stage. Due to his dedication to effective local government, he also can envision problem solving scenarios that allow for a citizen participation to reach those goals. Underscoring his planning background is a history of hard work. He has always seen a specific project through – from inception to ground-breaking ceremony.

From a practical standpoint, as county commissioners, we appreciate Rich Kramer's informed background about the county's transit and planning goals dating to before his lengthy service on the Saint Paul Planning Commission.

Governor Walz and Chair Slawik

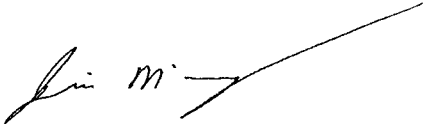
Page 2

January 24, 2019

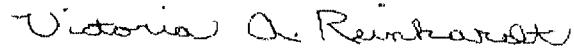
We hope you will realize his skills and the benefit they will bring to the Metropolitan Council and to the metropolitan area as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

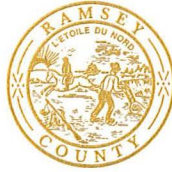
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McDonough", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim McDonough, Chair
Ramsey County Commissioner
District 6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria A. Reinhardt", written in a cursive style.

Victoria Reinhardt
Ramsey County Commissioner
District 7



Metropolitan Council

JAN 17 2019

Received Chair's Office

Rafael E. Ortega

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - DISTRICT 5

CHAIR

RAMSEY COUNTY RAIL AUTHORITY

KEN IOSSO
ASSISTANT TO COMMISSIONER
ken.ioosso@co.ramsey.mn.us

220 COURT HOUSE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102
TEL. (651) 266-8350
FAX (651) 266-8370

January 16, 2019

Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, and Chair Slawik,

As the chair of the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority and as one who has served on the management committees for numerous major transit lines in the twin cities, it is of great importance to me to have effective people serving on the Metropolitan Council.

I strongly recommend Rich Kramer as the Metropolitan Council representative for District 13.

He has served on many commissions including the Metropolitan Council and has served with distinction. He is a small business owner. And he has been a consistent supporter for good policy that builds a better transit system for Minnesota. He has also never forgotten the east metro region.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 651-266-8361.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Rafael E. Ortega

cc: Metropolitan Council Nominations Committee

Minnesota's First Home Rule County

printed on recycled paper with a minimum of 10% post-consumer content



DISTRICT 2 COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1365 Prosperity Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55106-2108
Phone: (651) 774-2220
Fax: (651) 774-2135

January 23, 2019

Governor Tim Walz
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Members of the Nominating Committee:

On behalf of the District 2 Community Council board of directors and residents, I write you today to give our strong support for the reappointment of Richard Kramer to the Metropolitan Council.

Since his appointment, Richard has worked with the City of St. Paul and the District 2 Community Council on the continuation of the Phalen Village Plan which will provide green-space, affordable housing and business development to our community.

Richard has long been an advocate for the Saint Paul and specifically the Eastside. He attends the District 2 meetings regularly and updates the community on Met Council activities. He provides guidance and leadership to the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We strongly support Richard Kramer's appointment.

Sincerely,



Lisa Theis
Program Director

EXPORT TO PDF PRINT THIS PAGE

Application for the position District 13 Rep.

Part I: Position Sought


Agency Name: Metropolitan Council
Position: District 13 Rep.

Part II: Applicant Information


Name: Mr. Chai Lee
Phone: (651) 230-3560
Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Saint Paul 55119
Email: clee@nexuscp.org
County: Ramsey
Felony Conviction: No
Mn House District: 67B
US House District: 4
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False





Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type	
Cover Letter	application/pdf	

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name	
Cover Letter	lee-chai-cover-letter-metcouncil.pdf	

Type	File Name	
Resume	lee-chai-resume-metcouncil.pdf	
Letter of Recommendation	lee-chai-recommendation-brendmoen-metcouncil.pdf	
Letter of Recommendation	lee-chai-recommendation-homans-metcouncil.pdf	
Letter of Recommendation	lee-chai-recommendation-nexus-metcouncil.pdf	

Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

Race and Natural Origin: Asian or Pacific Islander

Political Party: Democratic-Farm-Labor

Age: 31

Gender: Male

Disability: No

Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin: No

Part V: Signature

Signature: Chai Lee

Date: 12/6/2018 9:11:54 PM

APPLICANT INDEX

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Chai Lee



St. Paul, MN 55119

5 December 2018

Governor-elect Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor-elect Peggy Flanagan

75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #130

St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor-elect Walz and Lieutenant Governor-elect Flanagan,

My name is Chai Lee, and I am a 20-year resident of the east side of Saint Paul. I am applying for a seat on the Met Council. Growing up in both California and Minnesota has afforded me the opportunity to see the best and worst of what can happen to cities and regions when there is no coordinated policy and planning process or body in a metro area. My first 10 years as an American were spent in Fresno, the Central Valley of California. The Central Valley is still America's breadbasket. But for the longest time, local, regional and federal officials had neglected this part of California, and many of its cities remain the poorest in America, lacking the most basic transit systems and infrastructure.

I believe in strong government. Because we have seen what good, strong government can do. It has helped us create social safety nets for our elderly and most vulnerable, and it has given us a world-class interstate system with military precision for the purpose of national defense and economic efficiency.

The Met Council helps determine many great, important policies which affect the daily lives of millions in our Twin Cities area, the greatest metro in the world. I want to be a voice for the east metro on the Met Council. I already sit on one of your bodies, the Gold Line CBAC. At the end of my resume is an addendum of my other community volunteer activities. I have always worked hard to serve and help others. And it would be my honor to serve as a voice on the Met Council as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chai Lee

Chai Lee

Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55119

(651) 230-3560

clee@nexusep.org

Chai Lee

Objective

I am an outgoing, engaged and passionate individual who seeks to be a strong voice on the Met Council for the East Metro. I have a background in local government and currently work in nonprofit, with confident project management skills and communications assets. I'm a people person and love communications.

Work Experience

Program Coordinator (October 2015- Present)

The Boards & Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI)

Nexus Community Partners

2314 University Ave #18

Saint Paul, MN 55114

- Recruit, interview and select leadership cohort members for the program
- Help the director plan curriculum and organize logistics of all learning workshops, training sessions and prepare presenters/trainers who come in to train our leadership cohort. We train people of color to be leaders as they prepare to apply for publicly appointed boards and commissions
- Update our BCLI web pages as necessary, including posting communications such as blogs and sending out electronic invites/newsletters and all other written program materials
- Help promote, market and communicate about the BCLI to the public
- Serve on the Nexus communications team, revamping newsletters, brochures and website edits, plan and execute information sessions
- Communicate regularly with partners in public and nonprofit sectors to build relationships in the deep engagement work we do in community

Constituent Service Representative (December 2009- October 2015)

Office of the Mayor, City of Saint Paul

15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 390

Saint Paul, MN 55102

- Administered boards and committee appointments for the Mayor
- Recruited, hired and manage the Mayor's Office Interns
- Corresponded with constituents on a daily basis via all means, helping people resolve their issues, complaints and questions
- Planned and execute all parades logistics for the Mayor
- Maintained the database of office contacts
- Assist in office administration tasks, logistics and as a part of the communications team, worked diligently in staffing the Mayor and writing memos as well as other official communications

- As director of constituent services, I have extensive customer service experience and interactions with the public
- As director of constituent services, I was also one of the designated PIOs (public information officers) of the city. I was one of the four PIOs for the Mayor's Office department.

Accomplishments	During the summer of 2008, I volunteered with a handful of college students to interview Hmong individuals in the community about the tragic experiences of having had relatives' graves exhumed by the Thai government. Testimony that I collected, translated and transcribed was submitted for a public hearing on December 10, 2008, and presented to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples.
<i>UN Testimony</i>	
<i>Campaign/Political Messaging</i>	In the summer of 2010, I ran for a seat on the Minnesota State Senate – (Senate District 67). Although I did not prevail in that August Primary race, I finished the race second place out of a crowded field of nine candidates. I learned a lot about managing a campaign, good public messaging, running for public office and standing for my beliefs.
<i>Process Revamping</i>	Toward the end of my tenure in the St. Paul Mayor's Office, I lead a revamping effort of our processes for both external and internal protocols as they pertained to requesting official Mayoral Proclamations. In addition, I helped lead a refining process of the administration of boards and commissions appointments.
<i>Overhauling website to be more user-friendly with the public</i>	In the summer of 2016, I wrote a memo to the Deputy Secretary of State of Minnesota, sharing my personal user experience and suggestions of best practices from St. Paul. My advice helped inform the Secretary's office in their own boards and commissions applications website redesign for better consumption by the general public and standardization across departments.
Education	<p>Bachelor of Arts – International Relations/Political Science (2009) Carleton College 1 North College Street Northfield, Minnesota 55057 Dates attended: From September 2005- June 2009</p> <p>Humboldt Senior High School – High School Diploma (2005) 30 East Baker Street Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55107 Dates attended: From September 2001-June 2005</p>
Certificate	<p>Certificate of Completion of Project Management, from New Horizons Computer Learning Centers (Eagan) October 2017</p>

Addendum: Community Activities

Listings below show my volunteer activities, membership or affiliations in the following organizations and campaigns

District 1 Community Council (My neighborhood organization for my East Side area in Saint Paul)

Board member: March 2018 – Present

The Met Council Gold Line Committee (Community and Business Advisory Committee (CBAC))

Committee member: May 2018 – Present

Saint Paul Long-Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee (CIB)

Committee member: February 2016 – Present

Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department: Youth Soccer Coach volunteer (for 14U and 12U boys and coed teams, both indoor and outdoor)

Volunteer: September 2015 – Present

Advocacy Committee of the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Libraries

Committee member: October 2018 – Present

Communications Advisor to the following campaigns of MN House Members or Members-Elect

Jay Xiong – 67B (will be seated January 2019)

Fue Lee – 59A (incumbent)



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

AMY BRENDMOEN
Councilmember

To Governor-elect Walz and Lieutenant Governor-elect Flanagan,

It is with great enthusiasm I send this letter of recommendation for Chai Lee. Chai is seeking a position on the Met Council. Chai is a longtime activist, political operative for progressive candidates, and a resident of the east side of Saint Paul. Chai engages with his community, he profoundly understands power and accountability and has years of experience with local and regional policy work.

Chai's experience ensures his success at the Met Council. You can expect him to represent the east side with his deep community work at his district council and bring a greater regional vision with his current work on the Gold Line CBAC. His intimate understanding of boards and commissions come from his time in the Mayor's office, his current position at Nexus Community Partners, and personal service on Saint Paul's Capital Investment Board.

At Nexus Community Partners, Chai teaches young, influential people of color and indigenous people equitable policy-making across housing, transit, health, and economic development. He has established himself as a leader through hard work, digging in, and being accountable to his community. He brings his lived experiences moving equity through government to his teachings. Chai is uniquely poised to take on this position with both personal and professional experience.

Undeniably, serving on the Met Council is a tremendous opportunity. However, the more significant win would be for the east side residents he would represent on a regional scale. It is with great admiration and confidence I send this letter of recommendation for Chai Lee.

Kind regards,

Amy Brendmoen
Saint Paul City Council President

Nancy Homans
[REDACTED]
Minneapolis, MN 55404

December 5, 2018

Re: Chai Lee

Dear Colleagues:

Please consider this an enthusiastic recommendation that Chai Lee be considered for appointment to the Metropolitan Council.

I worked with Chai in Mayor Chris Coleman's office where I served as Policy Director and Chai managed constituent relations for the office. While it may look, from an organization chart, that his position was an entry level job, any of us who have worked in local government know that the person who is the first point of contact for a constituent with questions or concerns or complaints is the most knowledgeable person on the staff. For six years, Chai developed an expertise on everything from snow plowing to transit development, homelessness to racial equity. Thanks to his own natural desire to understand complex issues and his reluctance to simply refer a caller to someone else, Chai dug into the issues of the day, understood the multiple perspectives and, where appropriate, helped constituents understand how to take specific action or otherwise participate in the policy process.

I continued to work with Chai when he moved to Nexus Community Partners where I was on the Board of Directors. At Nexus, Chai is staffing the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute whose mission is to prepare people—especially people in marginalized communities—for service on the State and region's many citizen advisory committees. (Having managed the process of appointing people to the City of Saint Paul's 50+ citizen committees, from the Advisory Committee on Aging to the Planning Commission, he is well acquainted with how important good candidates are to the formal structures of civic engagement.) There are, today, BCLI graduates all over the State changing the nature of the conversation and shaping a new future.

My respect for Chai is grounded in his deep intellectual curiosity about public policy. He's smart. He cares. And he believes deeply in the democratic promise of a government that has the power to lift people up. My pride in Chai is grounded in how he has brought his lived experience into the public square. A child of refugees, Chai brings to his work both a deep respect for the journey his parents and their generation were forced to take and an eager anticipation of his opportunities to shape his community's—our community's—journey going forward.

Chai would provide valuable service to the Metropolitan Council. I recommend his appointment.

Sincerely,


Nancy Homans



TRISTA MATASCASTILLO

Ramsey County Commissioner
District 3

Ethan Osten, Assistant
Phone: 651-266-8378

January 29, 2019

220 Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Phone: 651-266-8360

The Honorable Tim Walz
The Honorable Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan,

I am writing to express my strong and enthusiastic support for Chai Lee to represent District 13 on the Metropolitan Council. I have known Chai for several years as a strong advocate for the East Side and its residents, working patiently and diligently to advance progressive and equitable change in areas that have too often been overlooked. Service on the Metropolitan Council is demanding and extremely important, but I know that Chai is the right choice for the role.

Ramsey County has always valued a strong relationship with the Metropolitan Council. We collaborate on many issues of shared interest, including expanding and improving our regional transportation network, managing and focusing environmentally and economically on sustainable growth and directing economic development funds into underserved areas. On these issues and many more, we depend on strong and capable advocates on the Metropolitan Council to advocate both for the benefit of their districts and for our common interests as a region.

Chai's record proves that he is exceptionally qualified to take on this responsibility. Chai has served on his district council for many years, successfully building strong relationships with policymakers and staff to bring resources and attention to the neighborhoods in the southeastern corner of Saint Paul. He has a demonstrated understanding of the critical importance of equity for decision-making that benefits everyone, not just those traditionally empowered by our structures and processes. He also has strong relationships with community partners throughout the East Side, relationships bolstered by his years doing important and sometimes thankless work for Nexus Community Partners to develop a new and more diverse generation of leadership on boards and commissions throughout Saint Paul.

Too often, people aspiring to public service in our region pay lip service to the idea of equity and inclusion, but fail to implement it in practice. In this, Chai is a true exception. I have no doubt that he will be an outstanding member of the Metropolitan Council, and I unequivocally endorse him for the position.

Sincerely,

Trista MatasCastillo
Ramsey County Commissioner
District 3



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Melvin Carter

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-266-8521

January 23, 2019

The Honorable Tim Walz
The Honorable Peggy Flanagan
Room 130 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan,

I was pleased to see that Chai Lee has applied for appointment to the Metropolitan Council representing District 13. Chai is exceptionally well-qualified to serve in this role and I am pleased to offer this letter of recommendation.

The City of Saint Paul has always enjoyed a productive relationship with the Metropolitan Council. We have considered our Council members important members of our intergovernmental leadership team, working with them to fashion and implement regional growth management strategies designed to reverse the process of global climate change, build an equitable economy and ensure the thoughtful investment of public resources.

Chai's service in the Mayor's Office, at Nexus Community Partners (Nexus), and as a member of the City's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee have served to prepare him for this work. He will work tirelessly to ensure that the issue of equity is addressed in all issues at the Met Council, as well as work to promote civic engagement.

During his three years on CIB, Chai was an advocate in helping revamp the process to be more inclusive and engaging with community. In his current capacity at Nexus, he helps run a leadership program which trains people of color for service on publicly appointed boards and committees. Chai is familiar with the importance of policies affecting infrastructure and the built environment. He has been doing the work of racial equity and community engagement at Nexus. His experiences would thus be a welcome addition to the greater engagement and equity work of the Metropolitan Council going forward. Chai also brings these same skills to his work on the Met Council's Gold Line Committee (Community and Business Advisory Committee), on which he is currently serving.

Saint Paul and the region would be strengthened by Chai Lee's appointment to the Metropolitan Council. Thank you, and please let me know if I can provide further information!

Sincerely,

Melvin Carter
Mayor

1/30/19

To: Metropolitan Council Selection Panel

From: Betsy Mowry Voss, Executive Director, District 1 Community Council, St. Paul

Dear Panelists,

I am writing to encourage your selection of applicant Chai Lee for the position of Metropolitan Council Member for the 13th District. Although I am Executive Director of the District 1 Community Council, I am not representing the Council in this letter—but am writing as a resident of District 13, and as a professional who has worked with Mr. Lee.

Chai has served on our Board of Directors for the past year, and has consistently provided careful insight and knowledge on the many matters that come up at the district council level. We serve as a liaison between government officials and the community. It is difficult work that requires a great deal of sensitivity, an open mind, and sometimes, a thick skin. He is one of the board members I rely upon for discussion and clarity in decision-making.


I appreciate Chai's input regarding racial and social equity in our community. These issues are a priority in our engagement efforts. He is chair of our Communications Committee, and is leading us in the creation of our first ever communications plan. He is also often one of the first board members to volunteer for activities and events.

District 1 is the largest district in St. Paul. We have the most green space, including Battle Creek Regional Park and Pig's Eye Lake. I trust Chai to advocate for environmental issues and services; he will provide thoughtful decision-making about Met Council infrastructure investments.

Transportation is also a point of ongoing concern in our community. Our location puts us on the far side of the City and our residents struggle with limited busing and unsafe transit stops. These concerns most directly affect our immigrant residents, communities of color and low wealth areas. Chai has participated in important discussions and has demonstrated a keen and nuanced understanding of our communities and their needs. These are the residents who most need an advocate as decisions are being made about funding and infrastructure. I would trust Chai to represent them.

His fine work at Nexus, cultivating leaders of color, is a testament to the rich experience he can bring to your organization. This is also true of his background in government and political science. I have been at District 1 almost a year, and have yet to hear from (or about) our current Met Council Member. This surprises me, considering some of the major issues in our District (such as a challenge at Pig's Eye Terminal with the railroad and business safety). Accessibility to our government officials and community leaders is imperative, and unfortunately, members of the Met Council can seem unapproachable. I believe Chai has the personality, commitment, compassion and knowledge to serve as an exceptional Council Member.

Thank you.



From: [Terri Thao](#)
To: [Vadis, Meredith S \(GOV-ELECT\)](#)
Cc: [Beckmann, Kristin L \(GOV-ELECT\)](#)
Subject: Additional Met Council names
Date: Monday, December 3, 2018 11:51:52 AM

Dear Ms. Vadis,

Below are additional names of candidates for Metropolitan Council seats from Nexus Community Partners. They all have submitted or will be submitting their applications via the online site. Thank you in advance for your assistance and consideration.

- 1) Abdirahman Muse, BCLI alumni
- 2) Aarica Coleman, BCLI alumni
- 3) Chai Lee, Nexus staff
- 4) Avinash Viswanathan, Nexus staff

Terri Thao
She/her/hers
Program Director
Nexus Community Partners
2314 University Ave W, Suite 18
St. Paul, MN 55114
651.379.0505
tthao@nexuscp.org

January 23, 2019

The Honorable

Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan,

I'm excited that Chai Lee has applied for appointment to the Metropolitan Council representing District 13. He is particularly well positioned to be a good advocate for Saint Paul and the East Metro on the Met Council.

Chai Lee has long been involved in community work and civic participation in Saint Paul. In his free time, he volunteers to coach pre-teen boys and girls the beautiful sport of soccer with Saint Paul's Parks and Recreation department. He has long supported his friends in their bids to be a voice and advocate for their own communities, such as State Representatives Fue Lee, Samantha Vang, and Jay Xiong.

Chai's service in the Mayor's Office, at Nexus Community Partners (Nexus), and as a member of the City's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee have served to prepare him for this work. He will work tirelessly to ensure that the issue of equity is addressed in all issues at the Met Council, as well as work to promote civic engagement.

In his work on the CIB, Chai was an advocate in helping revamp the process to be more inclusive and engaging with community. Currently at Nexus, he helps run a leadership program which trains people of color for service on publicly appointed boards and committees. Chai is familiar with the importance of policies affecting infrastructure and the built environment. He also represents his neighborhood on his district council. In addition, he already sits on Met Council's Gold Line Committee (Community and Business Advisory Committee) representing his Sun Ray neighborhood. He has been doing the work of racial equity and community engagement at Nexus. His record and spirit of service would bring great opportunities to network and reach out to community in his district for the Met Council.

Chai Lee's experiences would be a welcome addition to the greater engagement and equity work of the Metropolitan Council going forward. Saint Paul and the region would be strengthened by Chai Lee's appointment to the Metropolitan Council. I'm happy to recommend Chai to you for appointment.

Sincerely,

Sarah Walker



EXPORT TO PDF PRINT THIS PAGE

Application for the position District 13 Rep.

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Metropolitan Council
Position: District 13 Rep.

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Jill Smith Smith Jill Smith
Phone: (651) 688-7444
Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Mendota Heights 55120
Email: jillsmith38@comcast.net
County: Dakota
Felony Conviction: No
Mn House District: 52B
US House District: 2
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type	
Cover Letter	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
------	-----------

Type	File Name	
Letter of Recommendation	smith-jill-recommendation-klein-metcouncil.pdf	
Letter of Recommendation	smith-jill-recommendation-egan-metcouncil.pdf	
Letter of Recommendation	smith-jill-recommendation-Fan-metcouncil.docx	
Letter of Recommendation	smith-jill-recommendation-atkins-metcouncil.pdf	
Letter of Recommendation	smith-jill-recommendation-krebsbach-metcouncil.pdf	

Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

Race and Natural Origin: White or Caucasian

Political Party: Democratic-Farm-Labor

Age:

Gender: Female

Disability: No

Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin: No

Part V: Signature

Signature: Jill Smith

Date: 1/4/2019 1:51:06 PM

APPLICANT INDEX

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To: Metropolitan Council Selection Committee

From: Jill Smith

January 4, 2019

I am applying for the current opening for District 13 of the Metropolitan Council. I have a strong commitment to the principles advocated by the Metropolitan Council and to the future prosperity of the region. I recently completed a Master of Public Affairs at the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota, with a concentration in transportation and land use. While there I was a volunteer research assistant on Met Council transit-oriented development and transportation projects for my Advisor, Dr. Yingling Fan. I served on the Met Council Transportation Advisory Board for 11 years and understand the Met Council's role in the transportation funding process as well as regional transportation planning. In my 19 years at 3M Company as a Real Estate Specialist I was responsible for a comprehensive array of real estate and related matters in the Twin Cities and worked with many local officials and agencies, including the Met Council, on regional projects and planning. Other experience includes serving on the Mendota Heights City Council and on several regional planning committees. I currently serve on the Dakota County Planning Commission and the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization. I also have a Master of Science in Business from the University of Wisconsin Real Estate Program in appraisal, investment analysis and development.

Metropolitan Council District 13 encompasses the east side of St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Lilydale, Sunfish Lake, Mendota, Newport and St. Paul Park. If selected, I would commit to reaching out to all constituents in District 13. My education, work experience and public service provide me with the knowledge and perspective to be a strong contributing member of the Metropolitan Council. It would be an honor to be able to serve the region in this way.



January 6, 2019

RE: Metropolitan Council District 13
Recommendation for Appointment of Jill Smith

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

I am writing to recommend Jill Smith for appointment to the District 13 seat on the Metropolitan Council.

Jill has cultivated relationships with five of the seven cities within this district. Jill's experiences have given her a broad perspective on the comprehensive elements required for the long-term success of a region. Through the various positions that she has held, Jill has worked with MnDOT, the Metropolitan Council, and several other cities to plan and implement several projects.

Jill has demonstrated effective leadership through her various activities. She comes more than prepared to handle large-scale problems that require comprehensive planning and problem solving. She makes well-reasoned decisions based on need and feasibility. Her qualifications make her an exceptional candidate for the Metropolitan Council, and I respectfully request that you consider her for this position.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Atkins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Atkins
Dakota County Commissioner – District 4
(Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, and Rosemount)
651.438.4430



Office of the
County Board

January 7, 2019

Thomas A. Egan
Commissioner - Third District
864 Great Oaks Trail
Eagan, MN 55123

Home: 651.452.3957
thomas.egan@co.dakota.mn.us

Office of Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dakota County
Administration Center
1590 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033

Office: 651.438.4429
Fax: 651.438.4405
www.co.dakota.mn.us

Dear Governor Walz:

I am writing to recommend Jill Smith for appointment to the District 13 position on the Metropolitan Council.

As a current member of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners, as former Mayor and Council member of Eagan, and as a former Metropolitan Council member myself, I am intimately familiar with what is required to be an intelligent, thoughtful and effective member of the Metropolitan Council. Jill Smith meets these requirements and is uniquely qualified for this position.

My knowledge of Ms. Smith is broad and deep. While I served as Mayor of Eagan, I observed Jill's service on the adjacent community city council of Mendota Heights and noted her thoughtful, intelligent, and facilitative manner in representing her constituents. Jill has continuously kept me informed on her educational path in real estate, transportation and land use planning and her career in real estate. Clearly Jill's service for eleven years on the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board speaks volumes about the respect former administrations have had in her talents. I am also personally familiar with Jill Smith's passionate interest in excellence in public service at the state and local level. Jill has demonstrated this passion in her voluntary service for Dakota County most recently in her service as my appointee to the Dakota County Planning Commission.

District 13 of the Metropolitan Council includes a portion of Saint Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Lilydale, Sunfish Lake, Mendota, Newport and St. Paul Park and would best be served with a person familiar with those communities. The council member should also be familiar with the transportation, park and land use planning issues facing this part of the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Metropolitan Area. I truly believe Jill Smith is the most qualified person for this position.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can provide you with anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Egan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being more prominent.

Thomas A. (Tom) Egan
Dakota County Board of Commissioners, Third District



January 8, 2019

Re: Recommendation for Jill Smith's Application for District 13 Representative

Dear Governor Walz,

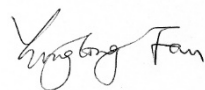
I support enthusiastically Jill Smith's application to serve as the District 13 Representative at the Met Council. I have known Jill for six years since we worked together on a research project focusing on promoting transit-oriented jobs-housing balance in the Twin Cities region in 2012. The project was part of the successful Corridors of Opportunities initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jill has a strong reputation in the Twin Cities region for promoting policy initiatives that foster regional sustainability, equity, and prosperity. She has built outstanding relationships in Minnesota with leaders from the state, regional and local government, philanthropy, non-profits, and the business community. Her outstanding relationship with leaders in the business community was instrumental to the success of our HUD project that required engagement with senior executives at established businesses in the Twin Cities region.

With a growing regional economy juxtaposed against persistent disadvantage in specific areas, our region is at a critical tipping point where our economic health hinges on equitable housing and transportation solutions that support economic development of the most disadvantaged communities. Our region is in need of leaders like Jill who deeply understand the connection between transportation and land use, the importance of public-private partnership, and the necessity of equitable economic development.

I recommend Jill with my strongest endorsement! I believe that her knowledge, skills, and perspectives have prepared her to become an exceptional candidate for the Metropolitan Council.

Sincerely yours,



Yingling Fan, Ph.D.

Professor, Urban and Regional Planning, University of Minnesota

Director, [Global Transit Innovations](#)

Editor-in-Chief, [Journal of Transport and Land Use](#)

North American Editor, [Urban Studies](#)

Telephone: 612-626-2930; Email: yingling@umn.edu

<http://www.hhh.umn.edu/people/yfan/>

Matt Klein, M.D.
Senate District 52

95 University Avenue West
2409 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4370



Senate

State of Minnesota

Dear Governor Walz:

It is my privilege to offer my highest recommendation for Jill Smith to serve as the District 13 Representative at the Met Council.

Jill is a former Mendota Heights City Council member, serving from 1991 to 1999, and stepped in to the role of acting Mayor during her service. In that capacity she represented the Mendota Heights community in planning negotiations with developers and utilities as well as assisting in MNDOT planning for local and regional projects. During that time Mrs. Smith earned a reputation as a collaborative and creative member of the Council who was very much in touch with her constituents. Since her time on the Mendota Heights City Council, Jill has been involved in a seemingly countless amount of county and other regional commissions and committees. Jill knows how government works at the regional and local level, and would add immediate value to the Met Council.

Mrs. Smith also brings 20 years of experience with 3M in their Corporate Real Estate Department. With her position at 3M, she was responsible for all aspects of real estate for 3M in the Twin Cities and numerous other sites in South America.

Mrs. Smith remains a vital asset to Dakota County. She is active in the community and in several volunteer capacities, and currently serves as Treasurer and Finance Chair for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute as well as sits on the Dakota County Planning Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this very strong application. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Klein". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a cursive "Klein".

Senator Matthew Klein, MD



Recycled Paper
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American Technical Education Associatio

818 Dunwoody Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55403

January 9, 2019

Office of Governor Tom Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

Congratulations on becoming the Governor of Minnesota. I am writing with confidence and enthusiasm for Jill Smith's application to serve on the Metropolitan Council, District 13. You will find that she has the capacity and experience to move the metro region forward and foster "One Minnesota." She serves with insight, courage, thoughtfulness and professionalism. Jill has the ability to work across lines, parties and sectors with a positive and collaborative manner, and with the goal of attaining the best outcome for the region and the state.

I know Jill Smith as an elected official in Mendota Heights and in appointed positions. I was the mayor of Mendota Heights from 2010 to 2016 and served on the City Council from 1992-2010. Jill served as a colleague on the Mendota Heights City Council from 1991-1999 when we developed the industrial park and established the vision for the City's successful Mendota Village at Dodd Road and Hwy 62. Jill was also involved with the Metropolitan Airport's Blue Ribbon task force that structured the MAC Noise Oversight Committee, an effective resource for working with regional air noise. Its success contributed to the support for the airport growing in its location. She further served the region on the Met Council Transportation Advisory Board from 2000 – 2011.


You will find that Jill is uniquely qualified to represent District 13, having been the 3M corporate Real Estate Department representative to 3M Eastside properties and her service in Dakota County. She holds degrees in a Real Estate Appraisal and Development and in land use planning and transportation, which inform her work and builds confidence in those who serve with her to explore options and to ask questions.

I am supporting her because the Metropolitan Council deals with significant issues that affect all districts and sectors which will benefit from her participation in decision making style that engages and informs the process. Thank you for considering Jill Smith for this important position. And the best to you.

Sincerely,

Sandra Krebsbach, Ph.D., MS.

JILL SMITH


Mendota Heights, MN 55120

H - (651) 688-7444

C – (651) 402-6086

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Minneapolis, MN.

Master of Public Affairs (MPA Degree), Humphrey School 2013.

Concentration in Transportation and Land Use Planning

Architecture – Courses in Architectural History. 2000-2001 and 2016.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, Madison, WI.

Master of Science, Business (MS Bus Degree - Honors). August, 1989. Real Estate Appraisal and Investment Analysis. Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Business Society.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, San Diego, CA.

Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, Madison, WI.

Completed two years of Elementary Education program.

EMPLOYMENT

3M COMPANY, St. Paul, MN. 1989-2009

Real Estate Specialist – Corporate Real Estate Department 1990-2009

Negotiated, purchased, sold, and leased real estate; managed all corporate transaction closings. Prepared strategic site plans for US industrial sites. Responsibility for all aspects of real estate for numerous US sites including Twin Cities, MN and Latin American sites. Negotiated and prepared easements, permits, and licenses. Designed and administered like-kind exchange system for tax deferral on capital gains. Prepared feasibility/constraint analyses. Conducted financial analyses. Review and analyze appraisals. Prepare departmental reports and response/position statements. Coordinated workflow of Real Estate Department functions with other departments. Led and participated in Six Sigma initiatives. Liaison for related public organizations, including MN/DOT, Met Council, Counties, Cities, and Watershed Districts. Minnesota Real Estate Broker's License #0094430. Received MCR (Master of Corporate Real Estate) designation from CoreNet (Corporate Real Estate Network), 2005.
1988.

Real Estate Student Intern – Corporate Real Estate Department 1989-1990

Assisted with design, research, financial analysis, and data analysis for corporate development sites in Minnesota and New Jersey. Researched and assisted with municipal and state processes for subdivision and public assisted financing.

BULL, HOUSSEY & TUPPER, Vancouver, B.C. 1980-1987

Real Estate Paralegal

Drafted and prepared legal documentation for residential and commercial conveyances and mortgages. Researched titles and all areas impacting legal status of real property. Prepared and conducted closings. Liaison with various corporate clients.

JILL SMITH

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) (Treasurer and Finance Chair), 2016 – present. Coordinate and report on organization financial information, develop criteria for budget planning.

OLLI Facilities Task Force (Chair), 2016 – present. Investigate various models of facilities organization for classrooms and offices to address current issues. Obtain member input on most feasible models.

Dakota County Planning Commission (Former Chair) – 2013 – present. Consolidation of Planning Commission, PARAC and FNAP - review and make recommendations to County Board for County land use planning activities.

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO), 2012-present. Review and approve watershed management plans, evaluate and resolve watershed issues within the seven-city WMO.

Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) - Advisory to the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), 2016 – 2017. Represent Mendota Heights for local and general input to NOC. Liaison to the Mendota Heights Airport Relations Commission (ARC).

Dakota County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PARAC) (vice-chair), 2010 – 2013. Guided development of County parks system and recreation programs and made recommendations to Dakota County Board.

TAB (Transportation Advisory Board – Advisory to Metropolitan Council), 2000 – 2011, Set criteria and policies for allocation of Federal transportation funding to regional projects and for evaluation of proposals for funding awards.

Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Preservation Committee (FNAP), 2003 – 2009. Reviewed and evaluated applications for land preservation based on County criteria and made recommendations to Dakota County Board.

City Council Member, City of Mendota Heights, Minnesota - Acting Mayor, 1991 – 1999. Numerous committees and task forces including planning negotiations with developers and utilities, TIF policy, antenna ordinance, street reconstruction program and policy, MNDOT regional and local planning of projects, parks development, and selection of Police Chief. **AMM Phalen Corridor Initiative**, 1998 – 2005. Worked with public officials and area representatives to promote industrial and economic development on the East Side of St. Paul, transit representative to Riverview Corridor, etc.

St. Paul Suburban/Sun Ray Small Area Plan, 2003 – 2004. Studied and evaluated ways to revitalize the Suburban/Sun Ray neighborhoods and made recommendations to the City Council.

MASAC Blue Ribbon Panel, 2000. Created structure for new MAC Noise Oversight Committee (NOC).

Metro Agencies Advisory Committee, 1998 – 1999. Studied role of Met Council within the regional framework and responded to State Legislature on proposals for change in structure.

MASAC (Metropolitan Area Sound Abatement Council) - Advisory to MAC), 1993 – 1999. Studied noise impacts on region and made recommendations to MAC on noise mitigation issues.

MSP Reuse Task Force, 1995. Studied and evaluated potential reuse of MSP site during the Airport Dual Track Process.

INTERESTS

Public and community service; land use planning, transportation and water quality issues; art history; architectural history and design; traveling; and reading.

PERSONAL

Husband Tom is a lecturer and researcher at the U of M, Kinesiology Department and consultant in Human Factors. Son Steve is a PhD Senior Researcher at Lincoln Labs, MIT in Cambridge, MA. Son Mike is a Chemical / Energy Engineer / Manager with Crowley Carbon and lives in FL.

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Application for the position District 13 Rep.

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Metropolitan Council

Position: District 13 Rep.

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Mr. Avinash Viswanathan

Phone: (651) 249-3859

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Saint Paul 55106

Email: arviswanathan@gmail.com

County: Ramsey

Felony Conviction: No



Mn House District: 67B

US House District: 4

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False


Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type	
Cover Letter	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document	

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
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Type	File Name	
Letter of Recommendation	viswanathan-avinash-recommendation-nexus-metcouncil.pdf	

Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

Race and Natural Origin: Asian or Pacific Islander
Political Party: Democratic-Farm-Labor
Age: 36
Gender: Male
Disability: No
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: Avinash Viswanathan
Date: 11/27/2018 4:36:52 PM

APPLICANT INDEX

Avinash Viswanathan

[REDACTED], Saint Paul, MN 55106
(651) 249-3859
arviswanathan@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Avinash Viswanathan, and I am applying to be the representative of District 13 on the Metropolitan Council. My experience in community engagement, community development, and in regional equity make me an excellent candidate for this position.

My life and work experience are rooted in community engagement and racial equity. I am the son of immigrants who spent much of their adult lives building community for themselves in this country. I learned from them the power that comes from community and how important it is that communities have a voice in what happens to them. I took this lesson to heart when I served as the President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. In that capacity, I ensured that community members had the space to speak their truths and bring their stories. I created space to have the power of community recognized in decision-making and the work of the organization.

I also took this lesson from my parents with me when I served as the HIRE Minnesota Campaign Director at the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (now referred to as The Alliance). In that role, I worked with communities of color to ensure that people of color were hired to work on publicly funded construction projects. I worked with Metropolitan Council staff on the construction of the Green Line to ensure that people from the communities along the line were building the line. Together, community and the Metropolitan Council, achieved the highest percentage of people of color working on a publicly funded construction project at that time.

Currently, I serve as the Director of the Community Engagement Institute with Nexus Community Partners. Nexus, much like the Metropolitan Council, works at the intersection of community, government, community developers. My role is to help ensure that work in our region is rooted in community and community engagement. I train and support many public sector agencies in increasing their capacity to engage with communities. At Nexus, I have hosted workshops and learning cohorts with staff from the at least a dozen different state and local agencies.

All of this experience has created my commitment to bring community voice and power to the Metropolitan Council. I want to represent my district, because I am uniquely qualified to ensure that this community is heard and that the community is part of the decision-making table. District 13 is rapidly growing and is growing mainly through people of color. It is imperative that the representative of this district knows how to engage with communities, knows how to ensure communities have a part of public processes, and has experience working with government agencies. My experience in these three things make me an excellent candidate for the representative of District 13.

Thank you for your consideration,

Avinash Viswanathan

Avinash Viswanathan

[REDACTED], Saint Paul, MN 55106
(651) 249-3859
arviswanathan@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a seasoned professional working in the areas of community engagement and community development. I have held several positions leading teams and programs in strategy and implementation. All of my professional experience has been rooted in community engagement and community building. I am seeking a position to build off of my previous experiences and expand skills in evaluation and communications.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Nexus Community Partners, Saint Paul, MN

Director – Community Engagement Institute, November 2016 – Present

Lead the growth and development of the Community Engagement Institute. Lead the design and coordination of the Institute's learning opportunities, including the Engaged Learning Series, workshops, and direct consultation. Develop and implement a communication's strategy for the Institute including promotional materials, outreach materials, monthly blogs, website updates, and coordinate additional communication support, such as with consultants. Develop and implement an evaluation system to ensure the Institute is reaching its goals and achieving its outcomes. Lead in researching and developing a business model and earned revenue component of the Institute.

Minnesota Council on Foundations, Minneapolis, MN

Ron McKinley Philanthropy Fellow – Bush Foundation, January 2015 – November 2016

As part of the Community Innovation Team at the Bush Foundation, participated in grant making by reviewing grant proposals and supporting grantees. Lead and managed Community Innovation Team in engagement and applicant support, which included meeting with potential applicants and shaping program communications. Participated in the development of a foundation statement on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Minneapolis, MN

HIRE Minnesota Campaign Director, March 2011 – December 2014^[11]_{SEP}

Led the strategic development and implementation of campaign plans. Represented the campaign in all aspects including community engagement, coalition building, advocacy, communications and presentations. Ensure consistent evaluation and improvement of campaign activities. Develop and produce all communications materials for the campaign.

The Office of Senator Al Franken, Saint Paul, MN

Field Representative, Constituent Service Representative July 2009 – May 2010

Represented the Senator as a policy liaison in Minnesota working on various issues including civil rights, criminal justice, immigration, and disability services. Built relationships with communities across the state in order to develop a policy portfolio based on those issues and to serve as a liaison between constituents and federal agencies.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Headwaters Foundation for Justice, Minneapolis, MN

Treasurer, January 2018 – Present, Board Member, July 2017 – Present

As Treasurer, chair the finance and investment committees of the organization. With staff support, carry forward the budgeting process and participate in the annual audit as necessary. Participate the executive committee and help create the vision and strategy for the organization.

Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Saint Paul, MN^[11]_{SEP}

President, December 2011 – October 2012, Board Member, November 2007 – October 2012^[11]_{SEP}

Developed programs and campaigns to further the community's interests. Created a community engagement strategy to better serve all residents including people of color and immigrants. Facilitated community conversations on diversity and inclusion. Serve as primary contact for press and other forms of communications.

Avinash Viswanathan

[REDACTED], Saint Paul, MN 55106
(651) 249-3859
arviswanathan@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA, Juris Doctor, May 2007

William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul, MN, Visiting Student 2006-2007 Academic Year

London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom, Executive Education in Strategic Decision Making and Behavioral Science, Fall 2017

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, May 2004



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Melvin Carter

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-266-8521

January 23, 2019

The Honorable
Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to recommend Avinash Viswanathan as a candidate for appointment to the Metropolitan Council representing District 13. Avi would bring an excellent perspective to the Council's important work in building a strong, sustainable, and equitable region.

The City of Saint Paul has always enjoyed a productive relationship with the Metropolitan Council. We have considered our Council members important partners in the work of shaping regional growth management strategies designed to reverse the process of global climate change, building an equitable economy, and ensuring thoughtful investment of public resources. Together we have planned for critical infrastructure improvements, prepared once-polluted land for new development, financed the construction of higher density housing and been good stewards of the regional park and open space system.

Avinash's career in public and community service has prepared him to represent those who live and work within District 13 and work for the betterment of the Twin Cities region. His current leadership of the Community Engagement Institute at Nexus Community Partners he has worked with many government institutions to help them engage ensure that public policies and programs are shared and informed by those who are directly impacted by the work. Through his work with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability and HIRE Minnesota, Avinash worked with Met Council staff to ensure equitable hiring on the construction of the Green Line. During his time in the Office of Senator Al Franken he worked with local elected officials and constituents of all political backgrounds in both Dakota and Washington Counties, giving him insight into the issues impacting these and other suburban counties. His prior volunteer work as board member and board chair of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council has given him insight into how the Metropolitan Council's work is connected to quality of life at the neighborhood level.

The critical work of the Metropolitan Council would benefit tremendously from Avinash Viswanathan's leadership as the representative for District 13.

Sincerely,

Melvin Carter
Mayor

From: [Terri Thao](#)
To: [Vadis, Meredith S \(GOV-ELECT\)](#)
Cc: [Beckmann, Kristin L \(GOV-ELECT\)](#)
Subject: Additional Met Council names
Date: Monday, December 3, 2018 11:51:52 AM

Dear Ms. Vadis,

Below are additional names of candidates for Metropolitan Council seats from Nexus Community Partners. They all have submitted or will be submitting their applications via the online site. Thank you in advance for your assistance and consideration.

- 1) Abdirahman Muse, BCLI alumni
- 2) Aarica Coleman, BCLI alumni
- 3) Chai Lee, Nexus staff
- 4) Avinash Viswanathan, Nexus staff

Terri Thao
She/her/hers
Program Director
Nexus Community Partners
2314 University Ave W, Suite 18
St. Paul, MN 55114
651.379.0505
tthao@nexuscp.org



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

JANE L. PRINCE
Councilmember

STEPHANIE HARR
Legislative Aide

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Tim Walz
The Honorable Peggy Flanagan
Room 130 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, Chair Slawik and Nominations Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Avinash Viswanathan as a candidate for appointment to the Metropolitan Council representing District 13. Avi would bring an excellent perspective to the Council's important work in building a strong, sustainable, and equitable region.

Avinash's lengthy experience in community engagement and building equity have prepared him to represent within District and to help build a stronger region. Avinash currently works at Nexus Community Partners as the Director of the Community Engagement Institute. He has supported many government agencies and institutions, including Metro Transit, to build systems to engage with communities. In addition, Avinash served as the HIRE Minnesota Campaign Manager with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability. Avinash worked directly with the Met Council staff to ensure that people of color were employed on the construction of the Green Line. Avinash worked with contractors, labor unions, and communities to build systems so that the work would be successful and could be replicated elsewhere. Avinash also has experience working across the region and across the political spectrum. While working in the Office of Senator Al Franken, Avinash served as the lead liaison to Washington and Dakota counties, parts of which are in District 13. Avinash worked with local elected officials as well as constituents to ensure their needs were being met by the Senator. Avinash also served as the President of the Dayton's Bluff District Council and worked directly with the Dayton's Bluff community on many matters of importance including economic development and transit development.

Because of his experience and his relationship with the community, the Metropolitan Council would benefit tremendously from Avinash Viswanathan's leadership as the representative for District 13.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Prince
St. Paul City Councilmember, Ward 7