January 6, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Saint Paul seeking applicants for 2014 Neighborhood STAR loans and grants

Over $1.7 million available for capital improvement projects

SAINT PAUL-The City of Saint Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) Program is seeking applicants for the 2014 loan and grant funding cycle. This year's program kicks off with an application workshop on February 12, 2014 where information about the Neighborhood STAR Program will be presented. The Neighborhood STAR Program awards loans and grants to projects requesting at least $5,000 in assistance through an annual competitive application process. Eligible proposals include capital (bricks and mortar) improvement projects in Saint Paul neighborhoods that further economic, commercial or residential development and must be matched dollar-for-dollar with private resources.

"This program is an investment in local organizations that works to strengthen neighborhoods across Saint Paul," said Mayor Chris Coleman. "I encourage all nonprofit, for-profit or public entities that qualify to apply and create growth in our city. These loans and grants provide resources necessary to take organizations and companies to the next level."

Neighborhood STAR applicants and interested parties are encouraged to attend the Neighborhood STAR application workshop on February 12, 2014 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory - Visitor Center, 1225 Estabrook Drive, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103. Neighborhood STAR Program applications are due by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 to the City of Saint Paul, Planning and Economic Development, 25 West Fourth Street, Suite 1400, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Applications will be reviewed and funding decisions will be announced in July 2014.

While individual homeowner projects do not qualify for Neighborhood STAR funding, proposals to administer housing programs are eligible. For information on a variety of individual housing programs available through the City of Saint Paul Housing Division call 651-266-6712.

Neighborhood STAR guidelines and application forms will be available at the workshop, online at www.stpaul.gov/star or by calling 651-266-STAR (7827). For additional information, contact STAR staff: Michele Swanson, 651-266-6574, Beth Ulrich, 651-266-6689 or Bob Hammer, 651-266-6693.

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