



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**RUSS STARK**

Councilmember

**SAMANTHA HENNINGSON**

Legislative Aide

January 15, 2015

Dear Michael Jon,

I am writing to encourage you to participate in an important initiative. After hearing concerns from a number of my constituents regarding relations between Hamline University and residents of the Hamline Midway neighborhood I began investigating options for addressing these concerns. After reviewing many possible candidates for guiding this process, I am pleased that the Minnesota State Office for Collaboration and Dispute Resolution (OCDR) will facilitate a collaborative problem solving process. OCDR is a neutral entity that provides dispute resolution and collaboration services to state and local government and citizens. Hamline University has agreed to fund the process. The funds will be administered by Hamline Midway Coalition.

The collaborative problem solving process will have three phases. In the first phase, a professional facilitator will meet individually with representatives from the key community stakeholders listed below. The project's assessment findings will include identification of stakeholders' perceptions of the existing situation, prioritization of substantive and relational issues, and clarification of stakeholder needs for a collaborative problem solving process moving forward. During the second phase, at a combined stakeholder meeting, the facilitator will present the assessment findings and series of draft recommendations for stakeholder review and input. The draft recommendations will be based on the stakeholder assessment findings and will include only meeting process and design considerations. In the third phase, the facilitator will lead the group following the agreed upon meeting processes. During the process, additional stakeholders will be invited to participate.

Representatives from the following organizations are being invited to participate in the initial assessment phase:

- City of Saint Paul
- Hamline Midway Coalition
- Hamline United Methodist Church
- Hamline University
- Historic Hamline Village
- Midway Chamber of Commerce

You will be contacted by OCDR next week.

I will continue to support this process in any way that I can. I look forward to working with you on developing a solution to these issues that will improve our neighborhood for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns about this process please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Russ Stark

CITY HALL

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