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December 21, 2012

Dear Downtown Stakeholders,

The launch of the Minneapolis DID in 2009 was a great moment for our downtown, and was made possible only after years of work by the Minneapolis Downtown Council (MDC). In the last six months, the DID Board of Directors has been exploring the possibility of aligning the work of the DID more closely with the Minneapolis Downtown Council, and this month, both the DID and MDC Boards of Directors voted in favor of alignment, effective 1/1/13.

The Minneapolis Downtown Council and the Minneapolis DID have nearly identical missions – to support and create a prosperous and vibrant downtown community for all those who live, work, shop and visit. Working more closely together, the Minneapolis Downtown Council and Minneapolis DID will be a stronger, more unified force, implementing the tenets of *The 2025 Plan*, and making downtown cleaner, greener, safer, vibrant and activated.

From an outward perspective, much will be the same. DID will remain a separate legal entity. DID service charges will be separate and dedicated to the DID mission as defined in the annual DID operating plan. Property owners and stakeholders will continue to guide DID through service on the DID Board of Directors and committees, including Operations and Services Budget, Greening, and SafeZone.

Mark Stenglein has joined DID as CEO of both the Minneapolis Downtown Council and the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District.

These are exciting times for the DID, Minneapolis Downtown Council, and downtown as a whole. As one community, we rise together to enhance the business climate in Downtown Minneapolis, help the 120 block district achieve its full potential, and create a great place to work, live shop and visit. We look forward to working together toward our collective goal of a dynamic, vibrant and energized downtown. Thank you for being an important partner in doing this work.

Best regards,

Tom Hoch
DID Board Chair

President, Hennepin Theatre Trust

Mark Stenalein

CEO Minneapolis Downtown Council

and Minneapolis DID