

Council Member Gary Schiff  
350 S 5th Street, City Hall, Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization  
3451 Cedar Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

January 8, 2010

Board of Directors and Mr. Steven Liss  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
807 NE Broadway  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

**Re: Sale and redevelopment of 2225 East Lake Street**

Directors and Mr. Liss:

As Minneapolis Public Schools prepares to sell the former Anishinabe Academy site at 2225 East Lake, we welcome new opportunities for transit-oriented redevelopment, as well as the possibility of continued use by MPS as the school board weighs options for its new headquarters, welcome center, and adult education facilities.

**In the event the school board decides to sell or redevelop the property, we urge MPS to employ a fair, transparent and competitive Request For Proposals (RFP) process specific to 2225 East Lake, and in partnership with the neighborhood and the City of Minneapolis / CPED.**

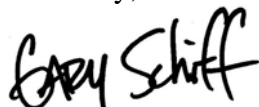
The *Corcoran Midtown Revival Plan*, adopted by the City Council as part of the Minneapolis Plan in 2002, was the result of countless hours of community discussion, fact-finding, imagination, and consensus building, and community members are still very engaged in the redevelopment outcomes at this important site.

Indeed, these 6-1/2 acres represent the largest opportunity for transit-oriented development in Minneapolis, as they abut a Light Rail Transit station, 2 arterial roadways and 3 acres of additional land where new housing development is underway. The *Corcoran Plan* calls for a mix of high density housing and retail/office space, structured and below-grade parking, and public open space including a farmers' market at 2225 East Lake.

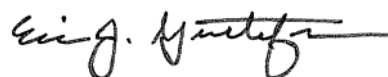
A thoughtful RFP process will help ensure the best possible outcomes for urban growth as well as permanent and effective public access from the neighborhoods to the Light Rail Transit station.

In addition, we believe the property's value as real estate will be optimized by a thoughtful RFP process, because it will seek the fullest redevelopment potential for 2225 East Lake by spurring creativity and competition by the local development community.

Sincerely,



Gary Schiff  
Minneapolis City Council Member  
Ninth Ward



Eric Gustafson  
Corcoran Neighborhood Organization