

January 25th, 2006

Council Member Scott Benson
350 South Fifth Street
City Hall, Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Council Member Benson,

It has been brought to our attention that the City of Minneapolis will soon be making a final decision regarding the ownership of a citywide wireless internet network. We agree that this would be a beneficial initiative for the city to undertake, and support the City's efforts to pursue such a program. As advocates and representatives of the residents of this area, the Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) Board would like to speak to the issue of the wireless network's ownership structure.

At FRNNG's January Board meeting, which was held on the 18th, it was agreed that more discussion about the implications of a privately-owned system versus a publicly-owned system should be conducted, more information should be shared with the community, and alternatives to a singly-owned, privately-held wireless system should be explored to provide the best possible end result for the residents of the City of Minneapolis.

Specifically, we urge you to consider the following suggestions:

- The City should hold public meetings that include a discussion of ownership before making any further decisions regarding the wireless initiative.
- The City Council should initiate a feasibility study that considers public ownership of a high-speed information network, similar to those done by Saint Louis Park and other cities.
- The City Council should not enter contract negotiations with a single bidder until such a study has been completed and the results made available for public comment.

In conclusion, we urge you to reverse the decision to have a privately-owned wireless system in our city and to explore, with open dialogue, alternate possibilities to procure a wireless network for the city. It should be noted that we are not endorsing one system or the other, but we aim to encourage open consideration of the merits of both systems to provide Minneapolis residents and government agencies with the best possible system, whether it be public or private.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

The Field, Regina, Northrop, Neighborhood Group Board

Also sent to:

Ward 1, Council Member Paul Ostrow

Ward 2, Council Member Paul Zerby

Ward 3 Council Member Don Samuels

Ward 4, Council Member Barbara Johnson

Ward 5, Council Member Natalie Johnson Lee

Ward 6, Council Member Dean Zimmermann

Ward 7, Council Member Lisa Goodman

Ward 8, Council Member Robert Lilligren

Ward 9, Council Member Gary Schiff

Ward 10, Council Member Dan Niziolek

Ward 11, Council Member Scott Benson

Ward 12, Council Member Sandra Colvin Roy

Ward 13, council Member