



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

RUSS STARK  
Councilmember

January 13, 2009

University Avenue Business Association  
1954 University Avenue, Suite 1  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Members of the University Avenue Business Association:

In reflecting on the past year, and looking forward to 2009, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for advocating for the interests of business owners along the Central Corridor light rail route. I was fortunate to join your steering committee members at their January meeting, and I was impressed with the serious, frank discussion taking place. I'm confident that your fledgling organization can play a crucial role in ensuring that the needs of small businesses on the Avenue are understood and met.

As someone who has lived two blocks away from University Avenue and worked to improve the Avenue and the surrounding community for the past ten years, I value your presence on the Avenue and will do all I can to advocate for your interests. I feel strongly that business owners on University Avenue need to have an authentic voice in the planning and implementation of the light rail project if it is going to be a success. The more you can work together and bring more businesses and allies into the fold to articulate common needs and concerns, the easier it will be for elected officials to work with you to achieve common goals.

Thanks again for your important work, and feel free to contact my office as ideas and issues arise.

Best,

Russ Stark  
Saint Paul Councilmember, Ward 4