



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-228-8513

For Immediate Release
December 6, 2006

Contact: Nick Shuminsky
651-266-8571

Mayor Coleman and Councilmember Benanav to Promote Local Businesses
Coleman, Benanav join MIBA to encourage shoppers to Saint Paul retailers first

(Saint Paul, MN) – On Thursday, Dec. 7 at 11 a.m., Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will join City Councilmember Jay Benanav and the Metro Independent Business Alliance to remind holiday shoppers to put Saint Paul’s unique array of independent retailers on their holiday shopping list. Join the mayor to meet a variety of Saint Paul retailers at Choo-Choo Bob’s Train Store, 2050 Marshall Ave., Saint Paul, at Cleveland, along with Legacy Chocolates, Izzy’s Ice Cream, Trotter’s Cafe, Wet Paint, The Fine Grind and a variety of other St. Paul entrepreneurs represented by Metro IBA.

“Our great city is home to a variety of independent retailers that enhance Saint Paul’s business climate and unique sense of place,” said Mayor Coleman. “I encourage folks to put Saint Paul stores first on their list.”

“Once train enthusiasts – from kids to grown-up hobbyists – find Choo-choo Bob’s Train Store in Saint Paul’s Merriam Park, they’re sold,” said Benanav. “We want to make sure they can find Choo-Choo Bob – in time for Christmas and a strong holiday shopping season – and to keep this great business chugging along.”

Tim Dykstal, executive director of the Metro Independent Business Association, cites statistics of how cities benefit from local businesses. For every dollar spent at a locally owned business, he said, 68 cents flows back into the community. That number drops to 43 cents for chain stores, he said. For details, contact Tim Dykstal at Metro IBA, 651/340-5788, or Jane Prince at 651/266-8641 or 651/308-4984.

WHO: Mayor Chris Coleman; Councilmember Jay Benanav; Metro Independent Business Alliance

WHERE: Choo-Choo Bob’s Train Store, 2050 Marshall Ave., Saint Paul, MN

WHEN: Thursday, December 7th, 11am

###