

Mayor Coleman to Kick-Off Earned Income Tax Credit Fair *Coleman encourages families to take advantage of free tax preparation, EITC*

(Saint Paul) - Mayor Chris Coleman announced today that he will join Mayor RT Rybak and United Way CEO Lauren Segal to kick-off a tax preparation fair for families and individuals that qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. The one-day "Claim It!" fair serves as a kick-off to the tax season and is aimed at individuals who earn up to \$28,000 or for families whose income is below \$38,000. Several organizations have joined to ensure that families receive all of the tax credits they deserve. The "Claim It!" fair takes place Saturday, January 27, 2007 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

"It's critically important that working families have access to help as they navigate the tax system," Coleman said. "Too many people do not receive the refunds they deserve, and we need to do everything we can to ensure they do in the future. Credits like the Earned Income Tax and the Minnesota Working Family Credit were designed for those taxpayers who need them most - working families. The mission of programs like this is to connect families with these credits."

Mayor Coleman, Mayor Rybak and United Way CEO Lauren Segal will headline the welcome ceremony at 9 a.m. Both mayors created City resolutions to declare January 27th, 2007 "Claim It! A United Way Partnership Day." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Director of Family Assistance Grant E. Collins has also been invited to speak. Tax preparation and vendor booth visits get underway beginning at 10 a.m.

"United Way is proud to be a part of this wonderful collaborative effort and to have both Minneapolis and St. Paul mayors involved is especially encouraging," said United Way CEO Lauren Segal. "The extensive services range from individuals connected to AARP, Accountability Minnesota, the Department of Revenue and to those involved in city and county government."

Among the items that "Claim It!" attendees need to bring: Photo identification, income statements or W2s and a Social Security card or Individual Identification Number. For more information on what to bring, to make an appointment, or parking, call United Way 2-1-1. Simply dial 2-1-1 or from a cell phone dial 651-291-0211.