

Mayor Coleman Opens Key Strategic Development in North End

The Winnipeg brings smart development, green living to Rice Street

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman along with community developers and county, state, and federal officials celebrated the opening Thursday of The Winnipeg on the City’s North End, a key strategic development in an Invest Saint Paul neighborhood.

The \$13 million mixed-use development includes 6,000 square feet of commercial space and 56 apartments, providing high quality space for small businesses and housing opportunities for families with a variety of incomes.

“The Winnipeg represents a real step forward for the North End neighborhood and demonstrates that, through strong partnerships with community developers, we can create developments that add value to the lives of residents and the neighborhoods in which they live,” Mayor Coleman said. “The Winnipeg will raise the profile of Rice Street as a major commercial corridor.”

The Winnipeg is a coordinated effort among the City, Ramsey County, HUD, Minnesota Housing and community developers Sparc and Legacy Management & Development Corporation to bring affordable housing and retail space to a former blighted spot in the heart of Rice Street. The residential apartments include six units of supportive housing for homeless residents.

In addition to providing retail and housing, The Winnipeg fits with Mayor Coleman’s Sustainable Saint Paul initiative to create developments that protect the city’s air, water, and urban landscape. Environmentally sustainable elements incorporated into the development include recycled construction materials, energy- and water-saving appliances and fixtures, and Saint Paul’s first living, green roof that will reduce the building’s temperature and lead to lower utility bills.

“Creating a mixed-use development of this scale in an environmentally sustainable manner demonstrates the potential of future projects in Saint Paul,” Mayor Coleman said. “The Winnipeg is a great addition to the North End neighborhood and it is exciting to see it become a reality.”

In addition to The Winnipeg, other Invest Saint Paul strategies in the North End have included early childhood education scholarships to families with low-incomes, free dental care for elementary school children, and mortgage foreclosure prevention efforts. Invest Saint Paul is an initiative to bring city services and members of the community together to address specific challenges facing neighborhoods through a “full court press” in which local government teams up with a variety of partners to direct existing resources and energy toward a set of neighborhood goals in a focused and strategic way. The initiative has already attracted new investment on Rice Street along with reinvestment in existing businesses.