

May 13, 2015

The Honorable Governor Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor & Lt Governor
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

Thank you for your support of the Destination Medical Center (DMC) initiative and the work that is taking place in Rochester, Minnesota.

As the city of Rochester grows we will need the support of the state with establishing a Regional Human Rights office in Rochester. This office can ensure the appropriate support with facilitating equal access and opportunity for the citizens in this region. As you know, the city of Rochester, like our state, is committed to freedom from discrimination but like other places throughout the state it takes more than a commitment; we must put it into practice, in all facets of our community life, a human rights office supported by state government which would help us achieve moving from a commitment to practice.

Many in our community supported the Council on Black Minnesotans legislative proposals for regional offices (SF 889 and HF 1364) but the bills did not receive a hearing this session. We celebrated your budget recommendation to add resources to the state human rights office and your recommendation to have the office improve services to greater Minnesota. I have since learned that only the city of Saint Cloud, with the support of Representative Jim Knoblach, will be successful with establishing a state supported office in greater Minnesota. If all goes well, it is my understanding that the city of Saint Cloud will be appropriated \$160,000 over the biennium to support its office.

We believe the same amount in appropriations to Rochester could support opening an office in this region of the state. The City of Rochester can provide free office space for a local office should it become necessary. This request has support from many local organizations and residents. The State Council on Black Minnesotans Rochester office and the Rochester Branch of the NAACP are strong supporters of this request and strongly encourage me to contact you directly to show my support. I believe such an office would be invaluable to this region of the state.

We appreciate the great leadership you are providing our state and have shown the city of Rochester. I would like to thank you in advance for any consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me for any clarification.

Respectfully,

Ardell F. Brede, Mayor
City of Rochester

Cc: Mr. W.C Jordan, local NAACP
Senator David Senjem (R)
Senator Carla Nelson (R)
Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL)
Black Minnesotans

Rep. Kim Norton (DFL)
Rep. Duane Quam (R)
Rep. Nels Pierson (R)
Ms. Kolloh Nimley, Council on