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Center for Economic Inclusion celebrates Saint Paul's Ford Site Redevelopment plan, elevates call for inclusive growth goals and principles to strengthen local economy

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – The Center for Economic Inclusion (Center) congratulates the residents of Saint Paul, Mayor Melvin Carter, Saint Paul City Council, and Ryan Companies on today's announcement about the Ford Site Redevelopment and what it means for the future. The Center is committed to ensuring this groundbreaking land-use plan is economically transformational for all Saint Paul residents, and particularly the city's residents of color.

"The Center for Economic Inclusion and our philanthropic and civic partners are committed to long-term partnerships with the City of Saint Paul and Ryan Companies to create affordable, accessible, and high-quality housing; inclusive, meaningful, and wage-equitable employment; and culturally and economically vibrant neighborhoods at this site," said Tawanna Black, founder and CEO of the Center. "Together, we will ensure that every dollar of investment is maximized to increase racially equitable employment, income, and wealth in our region."

A cross-sector collaboration between residents, government leaders, and developers, the site plan is steeped in the community's vision for a mixed-use redevelopment where residents and visitors alike can live, bike, walk, shop, and play. Employment during construction will exceed 14,500 and post-construction employment will exceed 1,000.

"The results of this redevelopment can be the critical turning point needed to end our region's nation-leading racial and economic disparities rooted in systemic racism," said Black. "To get there, we must set and pursue bold racial equity and economic goals within the impact envisioned for the project and invest collectively in the infrastructure required to achieve them."

The redevelopment agreement was informed by the City of Saint Paul's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which includes an explicit focus on equity. Considered a challenge and opportunity for the future, the plan states "...how we grow, develop, and invest over the next 20 years must be done in a way that reduces disparities in jobs, income, housing cost burden, education, and home ownership." Livability, equity, and sustainability were themes identified through the Plan's community engagement process. And equity and opportunity are core values that inform the plan's vision: "We are a city where opportunities in education, employment, housing, health, and safety are equitably distributed and not determined by race, gender identify, sexual orientation, or age; we are a city that creates opportunities for all residents to achieve their highest potential."

Throughout 2018, the Center partnered with Mayor Carter's office and the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development and encouraged the City to follow the 2040 plan's strategic statements with intentional goals that reflect the values of inclusive growth.

"Collectively, our regional leadership hasn't lacked the will to achieve equity, but the infrastructure," continued Black. "The Center was created to fill this gap: a dedicated organization focused on advancing

inclusive growth practices and strategies, integrating community voices and cross-sector development, and partnering with public, private, and nonprofit agencies to ensure local development efforts drive regional results.”

“Together, we will create an economy that works for everyone. It will only happen when we all lean in and maximize the opportunities before us, in every role, organization, and sector. The Center is proud to be a catalyst, partner, and resource with Mayor Carter and the City of Saint Paul for developers, employers, and organizations throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul region,” said Black.

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About the Center for Economic Inclusion

The Center for Economic Inclusion is the nation’s first organization dedicated exclusively to advancing inclusive growth to achieve regional prosperity. We are a cross-sector organization committed to strengthening the Minneapolis-St. Paul region’s civic infrastructure and collective capacity to disrupt systems and inclusive market forces to catalyze shared prosperity and advance an inclusive economy. More at www.CenterforEconomicInclusion.org