



**DOWNTOWN
MINNEAPOLIS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

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The DMNA Land Use Committee works to promote a safe, active, and welcoming public realm; a stable, civically engaged residential neighborhood; and architecturally distinctive urban design.

October 12

Mr. Aaron Hanauer, Senior City Planner
City of Minneapolis
CPED – Land Use, Design and Preservation
250 South 4th Street, Room 300
Minneapolis, MN 55415

RE: Red Lake Nation College Concept Plan for 900, 910 and 912 S. 3rd Street South

Dear Mr. Hanauer:

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association's Land Use Committee **to express support for the Red Lake Nation's proposal to establish a college in the vacant properties located at 900, 910 and 912 3rd Street South.** Chief Dan King presented the concept plan for the project to the DMNA Land Use Committee on October 5, 2021.

Mr. King began by presenting background information on the college. He stated that RLNC is a two-year tribal college located on the shores of Red Lake in Northern Minnesota. The college has received its accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, which is recognized by the United States Department of Education. He noted that the college offers a unique combination of Native innovation and tradition, and globally-relevant courses to prepare students of all backgrounds for the 21st Century job market. He further explained that their college fills a unique niche in higher education, because Native Americans are an extremely underserved population. He stated that the Red Lake Nation would like to open a second location in Minneapolis due to the high population of Native Americans and to help relieve the educational barriers that exist in the metro area.

Next, Mr. King explained that the Red Lake Nation has purchased three properties on 3rd Street South. They recently acquired the Tiger Oak Media building, as well as the two smaller buildings to the east of it. He then reviewed the draft architectural plans and renderings for the project. He stated that they plan to reuse the Tiger Oak Media property, which has been recently remodeled and renovate the building on the far east side. The smaller building in the middle they plan to remove and replace with a glass enclosed space that will serve as the central lobby or gathering space.

Finally, Mr. King reviewed the development timeline. He said they intend to start classes in the 900 3rd St. South space in January of 2022. They plan to do the demolition, reconstruction and renovation of the other two buildings during the spring of 2022. They hope to fully occupy the combined property by the fall of 2022.

After some questions and discussion, **the DMNA Land Use Committee enthusiastically provides its support for the concept plan for the Red Lake Nation College.** The DMNA Land Use Committee is excited to see a project like this in the Downtown East neighborhood. They see the value this type of educational institution will bring to the community as a whole. They look forward to reviewing more refined plans and any required land use applications for the project in the coming months.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at christie@thedmna.org or by phone at 320-583-4573.

Sincerely,

Christie Rock Hantge
DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator

CC: Chief Dan King, Red Lake Nation
Chuck Lutz, Consultant
Council Member Steve Fletcher
Pam McCrea, DMNA Board President
Kevin Frazell, DMNA Board Liaison to the Land Use Committee
LB Guthrie, DMNA Land Use Committee Vice Chair