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## Media Advisory

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***Minneapolis celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008***

Aug. 20, 2008

# Minneapolis promotes ex-felon voting rights at Get Out the Vote festival

- WHAT:** The Southside Community Festival, at which Minneapolis leaders and other partners will promote the importance of voting and work to educate ex-felons that they may be eligible to vote.
- WHEN:** Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008  
Individual interviews with City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Judge Pam Alexander of the Council on Crime and Justice and testimonials on the importance of voting at 2-2:15 p.m.
- WHERE:** Southside Community Festival - Get Out the Vote  
Green Central Park, 3400 Fourth Ave. S.
- MORE:** As election season nears, Minneapolis leaders and City Elections staff will team up with other "Restore Your Voice" partners to promote the importance of all eligible voters in the city exercising their right to vote. That includes ex-felons who may not realize they can vote. The festival will include voter registration information and testimonials from representatives from 180 Degrees and other agencies on the significance of voting.

In Minnesota, a person cannot vote while serving a sentence as a result of a felony conviction. However, once the full sentence is completed — including probation and/or parole, the right to vote is automatically restored.

The Minneapolis City Council approved a resolution on Aug. 8 supporting the "Restore Your Voice" initiative. The goal of the initiative is to increase voter registration and turnout among ex-felons who have served their time and have had their right to vote restored. Broad voter participation is fundamental to a strong democratic society, and the City of Minneapolis believes that full enfranchisement of every eligible voter will result in the election of high quality leaders, truly representative of their constituents.

"Restore Your Voice" is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis, EMERGE Community Development, Twin Cities Community Voice Mail, Catholic Charities of St. Paul/Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Urban League, MPIRG, Good Will Easter Seals, the GMCC Community Justice Project, Correctional Transition Services Inc., the Office of Congressman Keith Ellison, the Legal Rights Center, RS Eden, Rebuild Resources, the Council on Crime and Justice, Urban Embassy, 180 Degrees, the Election Day Community Coalition, TakeAction Minnesota, Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota, the Minneapolis High Rise Representative Council, Isiah's Closet, MN Council on Non-Profits, The NE CDC/UNP, Felons 4 Felons, and the St. Paul NAACP.