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SUBJECT: Duluth Wins Voice of the People Award for Transformation Efforts

BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator

Duluth Wins Voice of the People Award for Transformation Efforts

[Duluth, MN] - The National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) has announced that Duluth is the winner of the *Voice of the People Award for Transformation in Built Environment*. The award is only given to jurisdictions that best listen and act to improve their communities. Based on responses from The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™), residents of Duluth reported the highest levels of improvement with built environment compared with all other participating jurisdictions.

As evidence of this transformation, Duluth has seen over \$2 billion of million-dollar-plus developments built or soon to commence in the past decade – three times as much as any previous decade. The city has seen a healthy mix of projects from breathing new life into brownfield sites, to restoring historic properties, to large scale new construction in the core of the city and traditional neighborhoods.

“This national award is further recognition of the progress Duluth has seen over the past decade. From large scale public investments like the airport and Amsoil Arena, to significant investment in new housing projects; from improved maintenance in our parks, to maurices building a new headquarters in downtown. All of these improvements contribute to a significant change in how people see Duluth,” said Mayor Don Ness.

Starting in 2012, residents began to report improved confidence in Duluth’s economy, which has gained the attention of private investors such as maurices, Involta, Cirrus, AAR, Pier B Investment Group, and numerous others.

“This transformation is only in its very early stages. The progress we’ve seen in the last decade will only serve to inspire further investment and improvement in our existing housing and building stock. These are truly exciting times in Duluth,” states Mayor Ness.

The success Duluth is experiencing today is also thanks to the input and action of thousands of residents. Though Duluth’s revitalization has been historic so far, it’s just scratching the surface of where the city could be in the next five years. Duluth can continue to realize successes and growth with continued citizen involvement.

The award will be given out at the 101st annual International City/County Management Association conference in Seattle, WA, in September 2015.

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