

7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, Minnesota 55303  
City Hall: 763-427-1410 • Fax: 763-427-5543  
www.cityoframsey.com

March 27, 2013

Name, Name  
Address  
City, MN

Resident Name:

You are being contacted regarding the property known as the *Former Municipal Center Complex* described below and outlined in the enclosed reference map. The City is in the process of considering the future development of the Subject Property; and would like to invite you to attend an open house to discuss this potential development.

*Old Municipal Center Complex:* (the “Subject Property”): 15153 Nowthen Boulevard, two parcels, PID 23-32-25-41-0019 and 23-32-25-41-0018, 21.28 acres, City of Ramsey ownership.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Ramsey completed a municipal owned land inventory exercise in in early 2012. The purpose of this exercise was to identify a list of surplus City owned properties which are no longer needed for current or future City functions. The City reviews said list of surplus properties for consideration of sale. The ultimate goal of this process is to reduce the number tax exempt properties in the City of Ramsey.

The Subject Property was identified as unneeded for current and future City functions; and therefore has been determined as surplus City owned land. The Subject Property is currently zoned Public/Quasi Public.

City offices moved from the Subject Property in 2006. Today, the City’s Fire Station #2 is temporarily located on the Subject Property. The size of the Subject Property and the layout/condition of existing buildings are inadequate (or excessive) for the operations of Fire Station #2. The City is planning to construct a new, smaller, Fire Station #2 northeast of the Subject Property on the south side of Alpine Drive.

## **BACKGROUND Q&A**

### **TABLE 1**

**(Q1)** Why does the City want to reduce the number of exempt properties?

**(A1)** Reducing the quantity of tax exempt properties within the City increases the overall tax base; which reduces the tax burden on individual property owners.

**(Q2)** Why does the City want to sell and develop this particular property?

**(A2)** In addition to answer above, the City is in need of a new fire station. The sale of this property may provide a funding source for a new fire station; and will reduce the impact of a new fire station on individual tax payers.

The Subject Property is no longer needed for public works, public safety, administrative facilities, drainage and utilities, public right of way, parks/trails, etc.

## DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS

Generally, three options have been considered for the future development of the Subject Property. Please reference the attached development scenarios.

1. **Public Use** (*Public Quasi/Public Zoning District*)

Public use includes parks, trails, facilities, right-of-way, schools, wetlands, etc. The Subject Property is unneeded for any public use now or in the foreseeable future. As indicated, the Subject property has been identified as surplus City owned land.

2. **Single Family Residential** (*R1 MUSA Zoning District*)

Considering the existing parcels surrounding the Subject Property, one option for future development is single family residential. It is estimated the Subject Property could sustain forty-seven (47) single family homes. Said development would require an estimated 1,920 lineal feet of public roadway. The City could also consider a higher density residential development if desired.

3. **Quiet Industrial Development** (*Overlay District*)

Considering surrounding land uses, the Subject Property would be unfit for high traffic or high noise producing retail, commercial or industrial uses. With that in mind, the Subject Property may be fit for a quiet, low traffic, targeted industrial user.

In particular, the City is targeting a *data center development* for the Subject Property. Please see Table 2 for background information on data centers.

The Subject Property could sustain, at a maximum, one (1) 250,000 square foot or two (2) 100,000 square foot data center buildings.

In order to protect surrounding property owners from undesired users (i.e. high traffic, loud or significant noise pollution), the City is proposing a zoning tool known as an Overlay District for the Subject Property.

### OVERLAY DISTRICT

An overlay district is a zoning tool that allows the City to address land use and design standards unique to a particular geographic area, while protecting the compatibility of the surrounding area. Unlike standard zoning districts, an overlay district also allows the City to develop a customized set of land use standards and regulations. For example, larger building and parking lot setbacks from property lines than what is normally required. Or, noise, traffic and light pollution standards.

#### DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT Q&A TABLE 2

(Q1) What is a data center development?

(A1) A data center is a form of warehouse that is used for the storage of computer servers. In other words, a large building containing a vast number of computers.

(Q2) What product/service does a data center provide customers?

(A2) Computer memory space accessible via the internet. Most major corporations store data (known as computer files) on computer servers; which are often times located in data centers.

(Q3) What does a data center look like?

(A3) Attached are some examples. In general, a data center looks similar to an industrial warehouse.

Considering Ramsey zoning standards, a data center would likely look similar to newer buildings located in Ramsey's industrial parks. For example, Anderson Dahlen, Diamond Graphics and MultiSource

(Q4) In comparison to a residential development, how will a data center development effect my home and my lifestyle?

(A4) Please see the attached development scenarios comparison chart.

Finally, and overlay district allows the City to establish appropriate screening and transition requirements.

Considering the parcels surrounding the Subject Property are single family residential, the City is committed to developing a set of zoning standards that best fit neighboring properties.

### **MOVING FORWARD**

In order for any development scenario to move forward, zoning on the Subject Property would need to be altered from its existing designation (Public Quasi/Public) to allow for a new use. The Planning Commission and City Council would like your feedback and input regarding the proposed Residential and Data Center Development scenarios. Additionally, the City would like to provide you with time to ask questions and request information to ensure you are informed.

It is important to note, today, the City is considering a data center development for the Subject Property. However, your input and feedback is needed before the City moves forward.

The following options exist for you to provide input, ask questions and gather additional information:

- **Neighborhood Open House**  
On April 18, 2013 the City will be hosting an open house regarding the proposed development scenarios. The open house will be located at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Council Chambers, 6:00 p.m-9:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet with various City Staff, to view illustrations and figures, to ask questions and gather additional information.
- **Contact the City Outside of Open House**  
If you cannot make the open house, the City is still interested in your input and would welcome your comments. If you are interested in setting up a meeting, sending an email/letter or having a phone conversation, please contact Patrick Brama, [pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us), 763-433-9903.

The City appreciates your time, input and consideration regarding this manner.

Best regards,



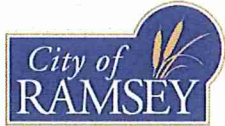
Patrick J. Brama

Assistant to the City Administrator, City of Ramsey

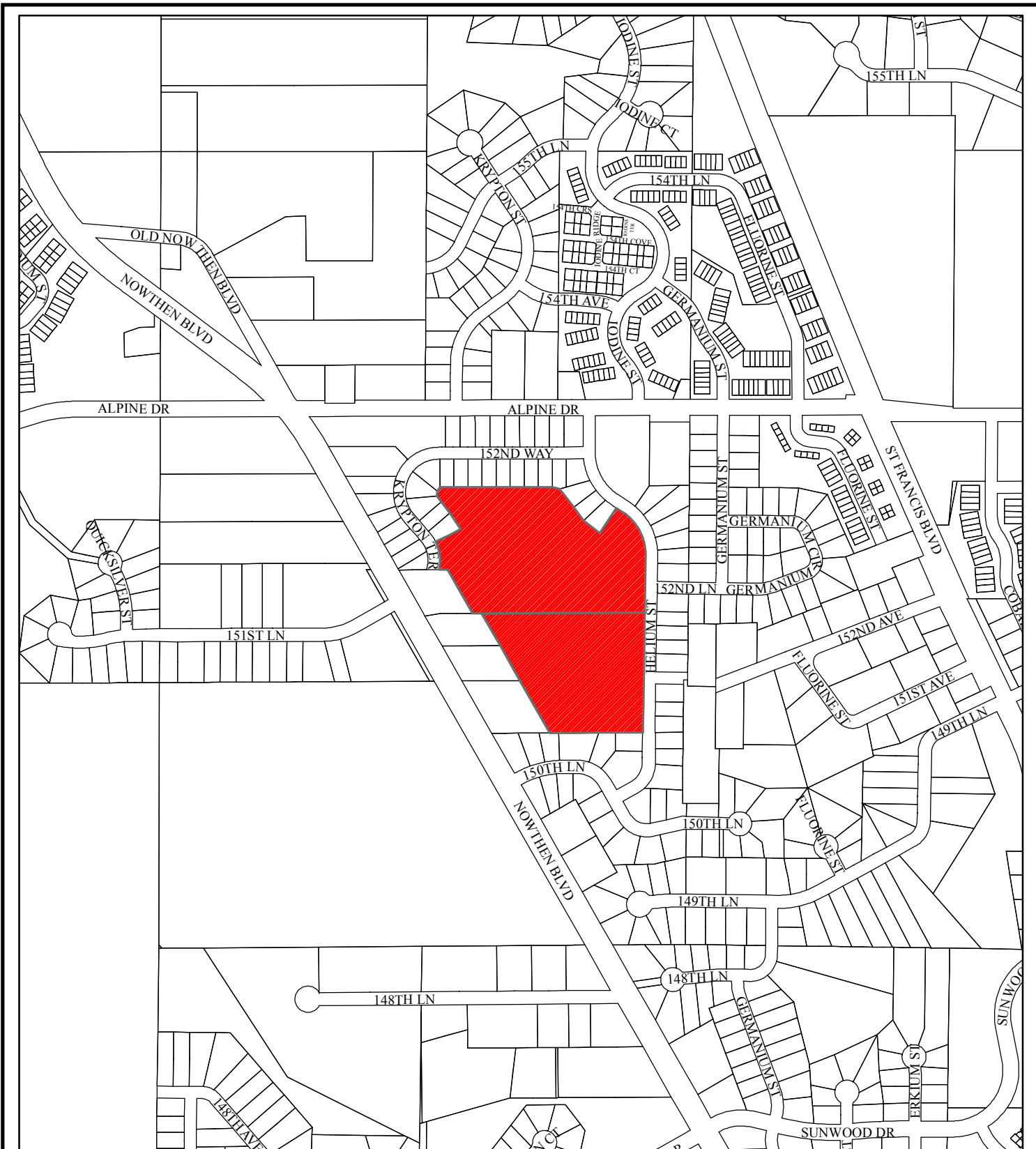
OFFICE: (763) 433-9903 EMAIL: [pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us)

ADDRESS: 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

WEBSITE: [www.cityoframsey.com](http://www.cityoframsey.com)



Enclosures (5)



**Data Center Parcels**

**Legend**

- Site
- Parcels









## Development Scenarios Comparison Chart

*Information displayed below are unofficial estimations only.*

	Residential Development	Data Center Development
<b>Maximum Size</b>	47 Single Family Homes	One (1) 250,000 square foot or two (2) 100,000 square foot buildings
<b>Residential Population</b>	Approximately 150 persons	---
<b>Employees</b>	---	30-80 persons
<b>Based on zoning, does this scenario fit the character of surrounding properties?</b>	Best Fit. Most compatible; and anticipated.	Acceptable. Partially compatible with appropriate transitions.
<b>Traffic</b>		
<b>Primary entrance</b>	Helium Street (from Alpine, Krypton Terrace, 150 LN NW)	Nowthen Boulevard, subject to approval of Anoka County
<b>Road type</b>	Public	Private
<b>Weekday traffic per day</b>	Medium (estimated 470) based on 10 trips per household	Medium (estimated 240) based on 60 employees
<b>Weekend traffic per day</b>	Medium	Very Low
<b>Minimum Setbacks Distances (from your property line)</b>	10-30 feet	150 feet (pending zoning amendment as proposed)
<b>Screening or berming to block view of neighboring use.</b>	---	Required (vegetation and/or berming)
<b>Noise and light pollution risk</b>	<u>VARIABLE</u> Depends on individual property owners.	<u>PRESENT</u> Data centers have backup generators and like any business, have security lights. City would require strict light and noise pollution standards to mitigate/ minimize effect on surrounding properties.
<b>Effect on overall tax levy for the City; and ability to contribute to a new fire station.</b>	<u>MINOR</u> Provides an incomplete funding solution for a new fire station (15 year bond).	<u>SIGNIFICANT</u> Provides a complete funding solution for a new fire station (15 year bond).
<b>Market Failure Risk: development fails and a new user steps forward</b>	<u>LOW</u> If a single family residential development failed, that would mean a majority of buildable lots remain vacant. Given Ramsey's population growth trends and projections, it is unlikely a single family residential development would not succeed.	<u>SHORT TERM: LOW</u> There is a strong interest in the market today to use the subject property for a data center.  <u>LONG TERM: UNKNOWN (FAIR)</u> Data centers, or this specific site, could conceivably become obsolete someday. Meaning, no market demand for a data center. In which case, the City would be requested to make this site compatible for a different user (office, warehouse, etc.).

## Data Center Images (1 of 2)



Target Data Center, Brooklyn Park

Source: ReliableResources.com

Retrieved March 19, 2013 < <http://www.relres.com/case/59/target-technology-center> >



Target Data Center, Elk River

Source: Ryan Companies

Retrieved March 19, 2013 < <http://www.ryancompanies.com/projects/target-technology-center-ttce/> >

## Data Center Images (2 of 2)



Involta Data Center, Duluth

Source: Minnesota Power, An Allete Company

Retrieved March 19, 2013 < <http://mnpower.com/Company/EconomicDevelopment> >



United Health Group, Chaska

Source: Finance and Commerce

Retrieved March 19, 2013 < <http://finance-commerce.com/2012/11/after-the-election-businesses-may-still-get-some-love/> >