



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Office of the Mayor

R. T. Rybak
Mayor

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Pham Thi Hoa,
Executive Director
CAPI
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Dear Friends,

A special greeting to all those who have come from afar and now call the City of Lakes home.

In the past hundred years, Minnesota has defined and redefined itself, and immigrants are the heart of that process. Today's immigrant populations have revived neighborhoods and contributed millions to our economy. We also see the value of diversity in our increasingly exciting arts scene, which is on display in the annual MOSAIC Arts Festival.*

Our newest residents contribute a cultural robustness that makes unity and respect for diversity a priority for the benefit of all. In recent years, many people have come to question what America represents in the world. The immigrants who have chosen to make America their home offer us an answer. Being American means believing in possibilities and potential. People immigrate here because they seek possibilities that they cannot find in other countries. Despite all the challenges and setbacks, people come because America offers hope. Hope that their voices can and should influence the political decisions that affect them.

As Mayor, I ask everyone to see community service as relevant to their lives, and civic engagement as essential for building communities where all families can thrive.

I encourage all of you to create a legacy by converting civic aspirations into a practical reality for future generations. Civic engagement represents one of the best possible avenues of improving the quality of life in our country, and involved citizens provide a most important resource.

Sincerely,

Mayor R.T. Rybak