

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE City of Duluth Communications Office

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SUBJECT: Mayor Ness makes statement about Google announcement

BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator

Mayor Ness makes statement about Google announcement

[Duluth, MN] - Mayor Don Ness issued the following statement today following the announcement that Google has selected Kansas City, KS as their first city to launch high speed fiber.

"The Google initiative effort was very positive for Duluth. While we were not selected in this round, the benefits of our effort extend well beyond this single opportunity. Our effort led the nation in digital syndication surround our effort, in the past year \$250 million of fiber projects have been announced with a terminus in Duluth, and our IT network and connections locally and nationally have been strengthen exponentially.

This effort represented an important spark for Duluth. We are prepared and energized for the next opportunity," said Mayor Ness.