Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Community Planning and Economic Development
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October 21, 2026

Amy Spong
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Avenue – Administration Building 203
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Minneapolis Spokesman and St. Paul Recorder Headquarters Building, 3744 4th Ave S, Minneapolis
National Register of Historic Places Nomination – CLG Comments

Amy Spong,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Minneapolis Spokesman and St. Paul Recorder Headquarters Building, 3744 4th Ave S in Minneapolis. These comments are being submitted by staff of the Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) on behalf of the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission who considered the nomination during a public meeting on October 6, 2026. The public meeting was noticed in *Finance & Commerce* on September 18, 2026, and the meeting agenda was published on September 29, 2026. Three members of the public spoke in support of the nomination during the public meeting.

The Commission adopted the recommendation presented by CPED staff as outlined in this letter:

The Heritage Preservation Commission **recommends** that the Minneapolis Spokesman and St. Paul Recorder Headquarters Building meets at least one of the criteria for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and **directs** staff to transmit a letter summarizing their opinion and comments to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The commission supports the nomination and agrees that the property is locally significant under National Register **Criterion A,** in the area(s) of *Ethnic Heritage-Black, Commerce, Communications,* and *Social History* for its association with the *Minneapolis Spokesman* and the *St. Paul Recorder*, both long-running and influential Black-led newspapers. The commission also agrees that the property is significant under National Register **Criterion B,** in the area(s) of *Ethnic Heritage-Black, Commerce, Communications,* and *Social History* for its association with Cecil Newman, an influential Black newspaper publisher and editor, social activist, community leader, and civil rights advocate. The commission agrees that an appropriate period of significance under both criteria is from 1958, when the building was constructed, to 1976, when Newman passed away.

The commission provided the following comments on the nomination:

1. Commissioners described the nomination as thorough, inspiring, thoughtful, and a beautiful narrative.
2. They appreciated the meaningful public comments shared at the meeting from individuals who know and understand the property's significance.
3. They acknowledged the importance of celebrating this particular property's history at a time when news is not welcome.
4. They expressed excitement for this property's nomination and expressed that it was long overdue to recognize the property on the National Register.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis
Tracey Williams-Dillard, CEO and Publisher of the *Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder*
Eric Hankin-Redmon and Rachel Peterson, Hess, Roise and Company