



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Communications Office

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SUBJECT: City of Duluth to aggressively pursue "Google Fiber" opportunity

BY: Pakou Ly

Mayor Don Ness has indicated the City of Duluth's intent to pursue a partnership with Google to bring fiber-to-home connections to city residents. Google plans to select a community to test ultra-high speed connections at more than a gigabit per second later this year through a competitive process.

The following is a statement from Mayor Ness on the city's intent:

We want Duluth, Minnesota to be at the forefront of a new gigaband revolution in America. For America to be competitive into the future, we need to be aggressive at investing in our data infrastructure. Google's community initiative will be a powerful tool to demonstrate the importance of this investment.

Duluth is a city which has successfully reinvented itself. Once a poster-child for post-industrial decline (nation's second-highest unemployment in 1983), Duluth is now a healthy regional center teaming with creative entrepreneurs who are drawn to Duluth for its authentic north woods spirit and natural beauty.

Duluth is successful because of the spirit of the people who live here – by giving gigaband fiber to these folks, unimaginable success would be possible. We have leaders who are aggressively looking for the next big idea, the next game-changer.

Providing Google Fiber to Duluth would be akin to giving Picasso his first paintbrush, Brett Hull his first hockey stick, or giving Brin and Page start-up capital. Ok, so that may be overstating it a bit, but that's an indication of our ambition. If Google chooses Duluth, they can be sure we will make the most of the opportunity.

Our nation's rebirth will be found in places like Duluth - cities who have tasted the bitter pill of decline and have had the courage to set a different course. Duluth is not yet the city we want to be, but we're making progress. And with this partnership with Google, we will be so much more.

Please join our efforts. Please visit <http://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/> to nominate Duluth. And send an e-mail to giga.for.duluth@gmail.com to join the team. More to come...

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