

- Thank you for coming today, as I introduce the new Metropolitan Council.
- The sixteen people I have asked to serve on the council are part of an incredible group of applicants. We had nearly two hundred extremely qualified people apply for these positions, including many people who wouldn't have considered applying in the past.
- The selection process was a good representation of what my administration is all about. It was fair, it was open and it was unconventional. The candidates all had a chance to make it clear where they stand on the issues they'll be dealing with. We got input from the legislature, and we held public forums that were very well-attended.
- We made it clear we wanted people from all walks of life, all ages, races and genders and I think the people we selected are going to do a great job serving the citizens of the seven-county metro area.
- Special thanks to our 7-member citizen committee, including the chairwoman, Mayor Jean Harris of Eden Prairie.

(more)

- And congratulations to the new Metropolitan Council. (applause)
- I have asked Chair Mondale and the council to work on a set of goals and outcomes dealing with urban development; a comprehensive transit plan; smart growth and good regional land use, and addressing housing issues. If you examine the backgrounds of the people we're appointing today, you'll see a board that's up to the challenge on these important issues.
- So I'll now introduce Chair Mondale, and then we'll hear from Mayor Harris.