

City of Duluth Communications Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, contact Mayor Don Ness at [dness@duluthmn.gov](mailto:dness@duluthmn.gov).

## *Mayor Ness Selects Citizens and Councilors to Serve on New DEDA Board*

Mayor Don Ness accepted 24 applications for the four citizen positions on the newly constituted DEDA board. He will now submit his nominations to the City Council for their approval at the July 13 council meeting.

“I was overwhelmed by the level of interest to serve on the DEDA Board. Of the 24 applications, at least 18 of these residents would have been very well qualified to serve on the Board and would have made substantial contributions. Unfortunately, I can only choose four,” said Mayor Ness.

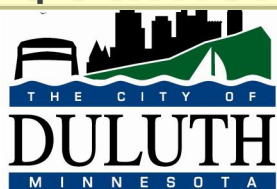
Mayor Ness has selected the following people to serve on the newly constituted DEDA Board:

**Don Monaco** – Don has extensive business and information technology consulting experience over a 28 year career at Accenture, a multi-billion dollar company operating in more than 100 countries. He also owns Monaco Air Duluth and has played an active role in the continued development of Duluth’s aviation sector.

**John Heino** – John is President and CEO of Como Oil and Propane in Duluth. He has over 30 years of business experience, has been active in region economic development efforts, and is highly regarded as a community leader with the Chamber, APEX, and Art Works KCCI team.

**Brian Hanson** – Brian is the Manager of Business Development for Allete. Previously, he served as the Director of Development Strategies at Iron Range Resources and is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional. Brian is directly involved in affordable house administration, business retention, and regional marketing.

There is one additional citizen representative position that is yet to be filled. A nomination for the final position will be made for consideration at the July 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting. “Given the number of very qualified applicants, I want to spend more time considering the final citizen appointment,” said Mayor Ness.



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By authorizing resolution, there are also three city councilors who will serve on DEDA. Mayor Ness is nominating Todd Fedora, Tony Cuneo, and Jeff Anderson as the council representatives on the new DEDA Board.

“DEDA will be well-served by the private sector experience on the Board. In the coming months we will engage in the critical task of defining DEDA’s future and selecting a new Executive Director. There will be significant demands put upon these seven individuals, but their efforts will be critical in the future success of the organization. I’m excited about the quality of this board and the opportunity to make DEDA into a more vital partner in our region’s economic development efforts,” said Mayor Ness.

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