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Prior Lake Eliminates Economic Development Director Position

As the construction and financial markets continue to decline, the City of Prior Lake, like many other private and public businesses, must look to position itself to effectively weather the economic downturn. In the public sector that needs to be done with as minimal impact to taxpayer services as possible. It is clear that cities will face impacts in 2009 and 2010 related to the State's budget deficit. The extent of that impact remains to be seen as our State legislature takes on the task of balancing the state budget.

Amidst other steps the City of Prior Lake will take to reduce approximately \$226,000 in expenses for 2009, the position of Economic Development Director will be eliminated effective immediately. The most difficult decisions in reducing expenses involve personnel, and it is not without a great deal of consideration that the City takes such action. Prior Lake's Economic Development Director, Paul Snook, has been an important asset to the community for the past three years. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Despite this reduction in staff, the City will continue its efforts to support the existing businesses that have been so valuable to our community, as well as encourage future commercial, industrial and residential development in Prior Lake. All future economic development opportunities and questions should be referred to Community Development and Natural Resources Director Danette Parr at (952) 447-8813 or dparr@cityofpriorlake.com.

Prior Lake is a developing suburb in north central Scott County with a small-town atmosphere and many recreational amenities including numerous parks and lakes that offer year-round recreation. With an estimated population of 22,000, the city is projected to be a fully-developed community of 40,000 by 2030. Prior Lake's 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan is dedicated to providing quality services resulting in a safe, secure community. Prior Lake is a wonderful place to call home.