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APPEAL ASKS COURT TO MAKE CITY SEEK STADIUM OPTIONS

Minneapolis, Minn., March 11, 2007 — A currently pending lawsuit asks the Minnesota Court of Appeals to order the City of Minneapolis to seek alternatives before allowing a private developer, DeLaSalle High School, to destroy a 140-year-old street in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District.

In the lawsuit, three citizen organizations -- the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Riverfront -- say the Minneapolis City Council violated state law when it approved DeLaSalle's stadium plan without exploring options.

"This proposal to close and remove a significant portion of Grove Street will forever compromise the historic character and integrity of Nicollet Island and the St. Anthony Falls Historic District," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust. "The National Trust wants to ensure that the City complies with Minnesota's strong preservation law by examining all of the feasible and prudent alternatives to siting a large stadium in this location."

The current Court of Appeals case is an appeal of the city council's 8-4 reversal of the unanimous Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission's rejection of the stadium plan. It is separate from Hennepin County District Court lawsuit in which Judge Marilyn Rosenbaum decided last week that she did not have jurisdiction. District Court Judge Rosenbaum did not rule on the merits of the case.

The city council put two conditions on its approval of the stadium plan: that DeLaSalle lower its proposed 70-foot light towers, and that its stadium use grass, not artificial turf. DeLaSalle has defied the city council with a revised design that insists on 70-foot light towers and the right to use artificial turf. The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a hearing on the DeLaSalle's latest stadium plan March 20, 5 p.m., in Minneapolis City Council Chambers, City Hall.

Friends of the Riverfront is a citizens group that works to conserve, protect and enhance the resources of the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. The National Trust is a private charitable, educational, nonprofit corporation chartered by Congress in 1949 to protect and defend America's historic resources, to further the historic preservation policy of the United States, and to facilitate public participation in the preservation of the nation's heritage. The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota is the only statewide, private, non-profit organization advocating the preservation of Minnesota's historic resources.

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