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520 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Michael J Helak

President

December 19, 2014

To: Selection Committee

RE: Business Record Deloitte CFO of the Year

As Chairman of the Greater Des Moines Partnership Finance Committee, I would strongly recommend Kirk Irwin be recognized through your CFO of the Year award. As a non-profit, The Partnership, is a significant contributor to economic development for the region with a multitude of stakeholders and dues payers to satisfy in pursuit of that mission. Excellent financial management, the important functions of budgeting, forecasting, internal controls, cash management, board and committee reporting, audit, significant attention to detail, sensitivity to reputational risk, are all largely a result of Kirk's management and oversight. These important functions occur outside the public eye so others in the organization can do their work and draw attention and garner the credit for benefit of Des Moines and regional economic development. With the many entities which make up the Partnership there has never been an adjusting entry as noted by outside auditors, KPMG.

While the above day to day oversight alone would be worthy of recognition, his performance and guidance in the aftermath of the devastating impact of the Younkers Building fire early in 2014 are noteworthy. The impact on operations would have been disastrous to most organizations. Advance pre-planning regarding system redundancy enabled the Partnership to be fully functional in a few days, in addition to relocating a staff of 34 to new physical space in a short period of time. You can imagine the logistics in coordinating and executing a full company move when there was not access to the building where all your files and equipment were housed and then essentially completely destroyed as a result of smoke and water damage due to firefighting of the adjacent Younkers Building.

Programming and ability to conduct the significant work of the Partnership were largely due to the oversight, preparedness and general overall professionalism of Kirk Irwin.

In addition, Kirk demonstrates the attributes of high ethical standards and integrity which garners the respect of the Finance Committee members, the Executive committee and staff members within the organization.

Please consider Kirk for recognition of his outstanding efforts which shielded the Partnership, the community and its work from significant setback from the Younkers Building fire and for the diligence in which he administers and performs on a routine day-to-day fashion.

Respectfully,