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News Release

For More Information, Contact:  
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## **Enhancing Duluth's Reputation—the Importance of a Healthy Downtown**

Duluth's Greater Downtown Council celebrates its 23rd Annual Dinner Meeting **Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at the DECC**. Mayor Don Ness will provide the keynote address "Enhancing Duluth's Reputation—the Importance of a Healthy Downtown."

Ness has been an active supporter of the Downtown over the years and believes strongly that when the Downtown thrives, it creates confidence and enthusiasm to spur economic growth throughout the community.

The membership will also be asked to approve the following slate of candidates for the 2008 Board of Directors:

### **Officers**

Chair: Abbot Apter, Mercury Investment Co.  
Vice Chair: Tami Tanski Sherman, Fitger's  
Sec/Treasurer: Roz Randorf, Duluth News Tribune  
Immediate Past Chair: Bill Bennett, LHB, Inc.

### **Board of Directors**

#### *Second Term*

Russ Schumacher, Minnesota Power

#### *First Term*

Dianna VonRabenau, Green Mercantile  
Rena Luck, Beacon Bank  
Paul Leisner, Radisson Hotel  
Kristi Schmidt, SMDC Health System  
Bob Mathiason, Wells Fargo

Up to 300 business leaders are expected to gather for the event. The evening begins with a social hour and raffle at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program to follow. **The event is open to the public, but reservations are required by contacting the GDC office at 727-8549. Tickets are \$32/person.**

The Greater Downtown Council is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the promotion and development of a healthy and vibrant downtown business community. It also serves as the management entity of the Duluth Downtown Waterfront District.

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