

DISTRICT 6 COMMISSIONER
CHRIS LATONDRESSE

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News release

Commissioner LaTondresse announces early departure from Hennepin County to lead deeply affordable housing organization

Hennepin County Commissioner Chris LaTondresse (District 6) announced today that he will resign from the county board on September 21 to serve as the next CEO for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

“Minnesota faces an intersecting crisis of affordable housing and homelessness that harms families, deepens disparities, and threatens our future,” said LaTondresse in a message to constituents. Solving this crisis will require scaling public investments, strengthening our ecosystem of mission-driven housing developers, and expanding the political will to create more welcoming and supportive homes for all.”

“Beacon is leading the way advancing this vital mission as one of Minnesota’s largest networks of affordable housing advocates and most active developers of deeply affordable and supportive housing.”

LaTondresse served as Chair of Hennepin County’s Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for his first two years on the board. During this time, the county approved unprecedented housing investments. His early departure from the board underscores the urgency of the housing crisis and the growing prioritization of housing stability as a top issue for policymakers, advocates, and residents.

Hennepin County invests \$146 million annually on housing, making it one of the region’s largest public-sector players in a government ecosystem that includes federal, state, and local actors. The county prioritizes funding for “deeply affordable and supportive housing”—homes with on-site services for extremely low-income households (30% AMI and below) and residents who are exiting homelessness.

This year the State of Minnesota passed legislation securing \$1 billion in new funding for housing, the single largest housing investment in state history. This one-time investment is complemented by a new metro-area sales tax for housing (\$.025) that will generate approximately \$200 million annually, with many of these dollars going to cities and counties to steward for affordable housing initiatives.

As Beacon’s next CEO, LaTondresse will help grow the organization’s statewide movement of housing advocates and strengthen government partnerships to ensure these historic public investments result in more homes created and maintained to benefit Minnesota’s lowest-income residents and families. LaTondresse acknowledged what his early departure will mean for his constituents, saying that he didn’t take the decision to resign lightly—adding, “I also can’t ignore the extraordinary convergence between Beacon’s unique mission, my background as a leader, and the fierce urgency this moment demands.”

The vacancy on the county board created by Commissioner LaTondresse’s departure will result in a special election. Details on this special election will be forthcoming from Hennepin County.

Commissioner LaTondresse represents District 6, which includes these 16 cities across the west metro: Edina, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Northern Eden Prairie, Orono, Excelsior, Wayzata, Shorewood, Mound, Deephaven, Spring Park, Minnetonka Beach, Greenwood, Tonka Bay, Long Lake, and Woodland.

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Commissioner LaTondresse’s full statement included on the next page >>



DISTRICT 6 COMMISSIONER
CHRIS LATONDRESSE

To my constituents and fellow citizens—

I'm writing to share some significant and unexpected news.

My last day serving as your Hennepin County Commissioner will be September 21, 2023. I am resigning from this elected office to become the next CEO for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Hennepin County will hold a special election to fill this vacancy on the county board.

As many of you know, Minnesota faces an intersecting crisis of affordable housing and homelessness that harms families, deepens disparities, and threatens our future.

This issue has been close to my heart as long as I've been in public service, rooted in my family's lived experience of housing instability when I was a teenager. As Commissioner, I've made this my top priority, including two years as Chair of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), where the county board approved unprecedented investments: prioritizing deeply affordable housing; transitioning hotels into homes; and creating our first-ever single-room occupancy units.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's this: solving this crisis will require dramatically scaling public investments in housing; strengthening Minnesota's ecosystem of mission-driven housing developers; and expanding the political will to create more welcoming and supportive homes for all.

Beacon is leading in all three arenas, advancing this vital mission as one of Minnesota's largest networks of affordable housing advocates and most active developers of deeply affordable and supportive housing. As Beacon's new CEO, I'll be helping grow the organization's statewide movement of housing advocates and strengthen government partnerships to ensure public funding results in more homes created that benefit Minnesota's lowest-income residents and families.

My decision to leave this elected office early is not one I take lightly. At the same time, I also can't ignore the extraordinary convergence between Beacon's unique mission, my background as a leader, and the fierce urgency this moment demands.

From the bottom of my heart, serving as your Commissioner has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life. In the coming weeks, I'll share more specifics of what we've achieved together that I'm most proud of. But for now, I just want to express my heartfelt gratitude. To my fellow county board colleagues. To our incredible county staff. And finally, to the residents of District 6.

Your faithful advocacy and brilliant ideas about ways the county can better serve residents have made me a better leader and made our community stronger.

As I transition into this new role, I'll carry lessons, experiences, and aspirations from my time serving as your County Commissioner with a full heart. My vision for public service has always been rooted in the conviction that better government starts with *US*. And time-and-time again, you have proven this true through the ways you've shown up as advocates, neighbors, and friends in pursuit of a strong, vibrant community for all of us—every single one.

And this office remains yours.

Together in this,



Chris LaTondresse
Hennepin County Commissioner

