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## United Nations Association of Minnesota

*Engaging Minnesotans in global issues and building public support for constructive United States leadership in the United Nations. Honoring Harold E. Stassen.*

1 May 2013

Mr. Michael J. Opat, Chief Commissioner  
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners  
Hennepin County Government Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Dear Mr. Opat,

On behalf of the United Nations Association of Minnesota Board of Directors, we are writing to request that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners reverse its decision of a year ago to remove the UN flag from the Hennepin County Plaza. We are joining with the Minnesota Chapter of Global Solutions.org to formally express our concern of this little-publicized decision. The United Nations flag had flown proudly next to the United States flag since 1968.

Minnesota has strong ties to the United Nations and its efforts to promote and maintain world peace and stability. Primary examples include the former Minnesota Governor Harold Stassen as a major contributor to the drafting of the original United Nations Charter and the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as a graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul. Flying the UN flag at the Hennepin County government center is both a symbolic gesture of human solidarity as well as an invaluable tool for young people to recognize the importance of global collaboration in a world that grows ever more interdependent. It is the public interest to promote and encourage the development of our youth into responsible global citizens.

With the heightened global visibility and importance of the United Nations, it is incumbent upon our legislators to take the lead in restoring the flag of the United Nations to its place of honor alongside the United States flag at the Hennepin County Plaza. We respectfully request the reversal of the March 2012 decision so that the United Nations flag may once again return as our symbol of unity with the rest of the world. Kindly reply with your reaction to our request.

Sincerely,

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