



For Immediate Release

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City Selects Westminster College Proposal for Garfield School *First Public Process for Surplus Property Drives Decision by Mayor Becker*

SALT LAKE CITY – After careful review and an unprecedented public process for the disposal of surplus properties, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker today announced his decision to follow the unanimous recommendation of the Garfield School Property Acquisition Proposal Selection Committee to name Westminster as the desired buyer of the surplus property.

A public school operated by the Salt Lake City School District until 1970 at 1838 S. 1500 East, the Garfield School property was purchased by the City in 2006. The parcel was recently deemed surplus property. Mayor Becker initiated an open public process to share the decision of how the school will be utilized with the local community. The process for bidding out surplus City property has historically been purely administrative without obligation to reveal bid information. In his efforts to support and promote open government, Mayor Becker upheld a public process to engage the community throughout the RFP.

“My decision to sell the Garfield School to Westminster as well as the conditions and restrictions placed on the property are all based on the clear site parameters and recommendations from the public and the selection committee,” said Mayor Becker. “All neighbors of this historic school deserve to provide their input as part of the process of open government. Some will be satisfied with the final decision and some will not.”

The process began with a public notice by the Planning Commission, a community hearing in April 2009, notice given of the RFP process, and ended with opportunity for public comment. The final three proposals were vetted by the Garfield School Property Acquisition Proposal

Selection Committee to meet certain qualifications including: the financial stability of the bidder; historic preservation of the building; intended use for the property; contributions to the economic vitality of the Sugar House community; sustainability; a purchase price that meets the appraised value of the property; and compliance with the zoning requirements.

The Selection Committee recommended sale to Westminster College based upon the institution's commitment to the surrounding community and best qualifications in meeting the designated criteria. With the Mayor's decision, the next step in the RFP process will be negotiating the sale after which a Notice of Conveyance will be sent to the City Council.

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