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PRESS CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF WILLMAR FOLLOWS MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT WHEN PUBLISHING RECORDS

WILLMAR, MN, JUNE 7, 2024 – The City of Willmar through its Department of Planning and Development publishes Building Activity Reports monthly according to the Minnesota Data Practices Act (MGDPA). The report contains a record of Building, Mechanical, Plumbing permits issued for the month and provides Year-to-Date Valuations and Permit Fees collected. The report is reviewed by the City Council during their regular meetings under the consent items. Earlier this year, members of our community expressed concerns to City staff about their names and addresses being released publicly. Since the city is not obligated to publish the Building Permit Report, staff recommended eliminating the names of our residents from the published listing and only list basic information publicly. The external reports will include:

- Permit #
- Issued Date
- Site Address Valuation
- Total Permit Fee
- Permit Sub-Type and Work Type
- Valuation
- Permit Fee

This information being released protects our residents' identities and is aligned with local, regional, and state guidelines, as well as the League of Minnesota Cities, a membership association, which Willmar is one of 855 member cities in Minnesota.

"I commend city staff for taking proactive steps in responding to concerns raised by our residents." - **Mayor Doug Reese**

"The Permit Reports are generated for council to review and track development activity throughout our city, not to infringe upon an individual's privacy. I stand behind the staff's decision to remove the owners' names from the report." - **Councilman, Michael O'Brien- Ward 1**

All permitting applications, digital and print, are subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), Minn. Stat. 13. To request data from the City of Willmar, please fill out the [Information Disclosure Request Form](#) at www.willmarmn.gov

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