

Cramer heading back to the helm at PPL

Steve Cramer, who has held key posts for the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, is headed back to the Project for Pride in Living, which he led between 1997 and 1999.

The organization announced the appointment Monday. Cramer was not among the 200 people who applied to be the group's executive director, but the offer grew out of "casual conversations," according to spokeswoman Julie Brekke.

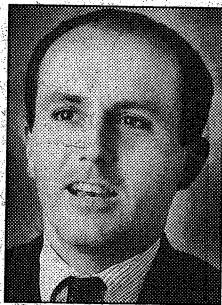
Cramer initially was hired as PPL's chief operating officer in 1996, after three terms on the Minneapolis City Council. A year later, he succeeded founder Joe Selvaggio at the helm. He left PPL to head the Minneapolis Community Development Agency, then went on to head the county's housing, redevelopment and transit arm.

Hennepin County Board Chairman Mike Opat said that one reason for Cramer's departure is that he was up against a state-imposed salary limit. Cramer said that is true but that it isn't his prime reason.

Former St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel, who led PPL after Cramer left, announced his resignation in April. Scheibel said that following a heart attack last fall he wanted to promote volunteer service by older people.

Cramer's appointment is contingent on approval by the organization's board on Wednesday. He plans to begin work on Aug. 14.

PPL, based in Minneapolis, is one of the largest nonprofit landlords in Minnesota. It is known for its advocacy for the poor and an emphasis on self-help.



Steve Cramer

— Steve Brandt