

Former mayor to join First Capital Group

by Sarah Morin

As of this week, former Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez is a partner and senior vice president with First Capital Group.

The announcement was made Tuesday evening.

Fernandez will help identify and manage real estate acquisitions and property development projects. He also will lead the group's corporate growth strategy.

"Joining First Capital Group represents a phenomenal opportunity for me to draw upon my collective experiences, skills and relationships and apply them on a national level," he said in a news release.

"I've known and worked with the company's partners for more than a decade. We share history, trust and a passion for driving development and revitalization projects that transform and make a positive impact on the markets and communities involved."

First Capital Group is headquartered in Bloomington. Founded in 1983, the firm has more than \$150 million in assets.

In his new job, Fernandez will lead the group's corporate growth strategy to expand nationally and to increase the company's assets and interests.

Fernandez leaves his position as senior vice president of Finelight in Bloomington. He worked to expand the ad agency's company headquarters downtown at the corner of Washington Street and Kirkwood Avenue.

Fernandez also served as president of Heartland Group, the group leading the Finelight development.

Prior to joining Finelight, he served as mayor of Bloomington from 1996 to 2003. During his two terms, he worked to bring millions of dollars in new investments downtown—most notably redevelopment of several apartment buildings.

First Capital Group's president and founder Tim J. Mitchell and the other partners hope to take advantage of that experience.

"As a company, we plan to leverage his expertise in governmental relations as well as his vast knowledge of local, state and national economic incentives to expand First Capital nationally," Mitchell said in a statement.