Dr. Ramsey remarks, Partnership for a Green City news conference
10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Mayor’s Gallery (Fourth Floor)
Metro Hall, 527 W. Jefferson

• Thank you, Mayor Abramson. If these solar street lights work the way we hope they do, there will be a whole new way to “light up Louisville” using the sun.

• I’m pleased to report that the Partnership for a Green City also is generating substantial savings at the University of Louisville.

• We are putting the Partnership to work with $800,000 in appropriations from the U.S. Department of Energy. We are grateful to
Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky for helping us secure this funding.

• This grant is allowing us to test new technologies aimed at saving energy, such as the city’s new solar streetlights and the new solar hot water system going in at the elementary school on Billtown Road.

• At U of L, we’re trying out some other things. Last September, we decided to test some soft drink machines on our Belknap Campus to see how much power they were consuming. We found that each one was using about $210 worth of electricity a year.
• We learned something pretty amazing. When you install a device called a “power miser” on these machines, you can cut up to 60 percent of their energy usage.

• These devices are really ingenious. They turn the power off to the machines late at night and at other times no one is using them. When someone comes up to the machine to buy a soft drink, a motion sensor turns the power back on.

• Last month, we installed power misers on 34 soft drink machines. This one step alone is going to save us $3,000 to $4,000 a year. And that’s just for soft drink machines.
• We also are starting to see impressive results from the energy audits of entire campus buildings now taking place through the Partnership for a Green City.

• These audits already have identified $62,700 worth of energy savings in just four buildings. When you consider that we have about 100 buildings on Belknap Campus, you begin to see the huge potential for saving energy and money.

• U of L is delighted to be working side-by-side with Louisville Metro government and Jefferson County Public Schools to make our community “greener.”
• In the months ahead, we’ll be coming to you with even more good news as we adopt other exciting Partnership strategies.

• Thank you.