

**Extending City of Saint Paul
Emergency Declaration COVID-19
January 3, 2022**

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly known as COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that a local emergency existed within Saint Paul, effective March 15, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Saint Paul City Council, in Res 20-550 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective June 8, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-874 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until September 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective September 8, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020 the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-1249 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until December 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective November 30, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2020 the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-1652 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until March 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective March 1, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-326 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until June 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective June 1, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-852 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until September 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective August 31, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-1305 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on November 29, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective November 29, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-1749 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for thirty-five days, until Wednesday, January 5 2021; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenge to our City. As of January 3, 2022, there were 82,602 reported cases of COVID-19 in Ramsey County, and 1,073 COVID-19 related deaths; and

WHEREAS, even though vaccinations have become widely available, it is now recommended that all fully vaccinated individuals receive a booster shot if; and serious threats to health and safety of persons and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt in the nation and City; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant is more contagious than previous variants, has been causing more severe illness than prior variants, and fully vaccinated people with Delta variant breakthrough infections can spread the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, infections from the fast-spreading Delta variant have spread north to the Midwest and Mountain states this fall and Minnesota's rate of new infections has at recent times been the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in recent weeks, Minnesota, in particular, has been under a surge of COVID-19 cases and hospitals have been up to 97% full; and

WHEREAS, the Omicron variant has been found in Minnesota and internationally has been spreading faster than any other previous variant; and

WHEREAS, the now 21-month health emergency has impacted the residents and businesses of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's most-recent data on the impact of COVID-19:

- business applications are down 10.31%,
- 19% of small businesses have had an overall large negative impact and 24% have had a moderate negative impact,
- 30% of households with children under 5 have had a childcare disruption in the last 4 weeks,
- 11% of households have been unable to pay an energy bill in the last 12 months,
- 34.3% of households are behind on mortgage or rent payments and the risk of eviction or foreclosure is either somewhat or very likely

WHEREAS, it is likely that the DEED statistics under-represent the impact in Saint Paul. During the course of the pandemic, small businesses in metropolitan areas have been hit harder than those in rural areas. According to a report by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) *The Effects Of The COVID-19 Pandemic On Small Businesses* (released March 2, 2021), in April 2020, the number of people in metropolitan areas who were working and self-employed was 21 percent lower than in April 2019. Outside of those areas, the decline was only 13 percent. In subsequent months, the decline in metropolitan areas continued to exceed the decline outside of metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 3 in 5 small businesses in Minnesota report at least a moderate negative impact on their business from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities COVID-19 Hardship Watch, “[w]hile the economy has added jobs in recent months, there were still 5.0 million fewer jobs in September 2021 than in February 2020. The majority of jobs lost in the crisis have been in industries that pay low average wages, with the lowest-paying industries accounting for 30 percent of all jobs but 56 percent of the jobs lost from February 2020 to September 2021, according to the latest month of Labor Department employment data. Jobs were down nearly twice as much in low-paying industries (5.3 percent) as in medium-wage industries (3.2 percent) and more than six times as much as in high-wage industries (0.8 percent) during this period; and

WHEREAS, according to a Pew Center survey published March 5, 2021, among those who say their financial situation has gotten worse during the pandemic, 44% think it will take them three years or more to get back to where they were a year ago – including about one-in-ten who don't think their finances will ever recover. Also, about half of workers who personally lost wages during the pandemic (49%) are still earning less money than before the coronavirus outbreak started; and

WHEREAS, in addition to action necessary to safeguard the health and safety of Saint Paul residents, it remains necessary for the City to provide economic support to individuals and businesses alike to ensure that Saint Paul recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic disaster; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency, I have exercised executive authority through more than 80 Executive Orders to provide relief and further prepare our City for the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these Executive Orders remain in effect only as long as the emergency continues; and

WHEREAS, the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the City, and additional resources will be needed from Ramsey County, and state and federal sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, MAYOR MELVIN CARTER III, OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL
DECLARES, REQUESTS, AND DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, declares that a local emergency continues to exist within Saint Paul, on January 3, 2022, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statute, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13. This declaration supersedes all prior declarations.
2. Directs City departments to review ordinance and regulatory requirements, operations, civil and legal proceedings, events, and resources that can and should be adjusted or suspended, or to enact emergency regulations to support the residents of Saint Paul during the pandemic.
3. Directs the Saint Paul Director of Emergency Management to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, the Ramsey County Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the State of Minnesota, as needed.
4. Declares, under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the boards, commissions, and committees of public bodies under the Mayor's jurisdiction are not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 health pandemic. This does not include the Saint Paul City Council.
5. Declares that the Inauguration event to be held on January 3, 2022, will be subject to a requirement that all individuals attending the event provide proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the event.
6. Requests the City Council convene at its earliest convenience to discuss the situation and this declaration. This state of local emergency may not be continued for a period in excess of three days except by or with the consent of the Council of the City of Saint Paul.
7. Orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the City Clerk.

Dated: January 3, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. W. Carter', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Melvin Carter