



SAINT PAUL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 16, 2013

Council President Kathy Lantry
1400 City Hall Annex
25 Fourth Street W
Saint Paul MN 55102-1623

RE: Saint Paul College Signage Variance Request- [File#: ABZA 13-8]

Dear Council President Lantry and Council members:

On behalf of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce (SPACC) I am writing in support of the signage variance request submitted by Saint Paul College (SPC). SPC is an exceptional community asset for the city and the region. SPC was ranked the number one community college in the nation by Washington Monthly Magazine based on data provided by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and graduation data from the U.S. Department of Education. That is just one accomplishment in a list of many that highlight the strength of our local community college.

SPACC and the East Metro business community put a high priority on workforce development and understand that well trained and educated employees are essential to the economic success of our region. SPC is an extremely important component of our regional workforce development system. We believe SPC is a community institution to be proud of and that should be promoted at every opportunity. Therefore we certainly support SPC efforts at self-promotion and updating their signage to better communicate with their students, staff, and the broader community. SPC has a history of valuable community engagement, being a good neighbor, and operating with as little disruption to their neighbors as possible. SPC presented their signage plans to their local district council's neighborhood development committee and won the support of their district council. SPC has earned the support of SPACC and the East Metro business community through the dedicated pursuit of their mission: "*Education for Employment... Education for Life.*" We hope SPC has the support of the Saint Paul City Council as well.

We respectfully urge you to approve the appeal of SPC from the Board of Zoning Appeals decision to deny SPC's signage variance request for a full color electronic display and message changes at less than 20 minute intervals.

Sincerely,

James McClean

Director of Public Affairs
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

cc-

Mayor Chris Coleman

Councilmember Nathaniel Khaliq

Councilmember Dave Thune

Councilmember Chris Tolbert

Councilmember Russ Stark

Councilmember Amy Brendmoen

Councilmember Dan Bostrom

