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Senate

State of Minnesota

May 6, 2011

Mayor Chris Coleman
 City Council President Kathy Lantry
 Members of the Saint Paul City Council
 15 Kellogg Blvd W. Room 390
 Saint Paul, MN 55102

Mayor Chris Coleman, City Council President Lantry and members of the Saint Paul City Council:

As your former police chief you are well aware that one of my priorities when I worked for the city was improving public safety and quality of the life of the community. I was also deeply concerned about the safety of our law enforcement officers. Because of these concerns I have always been supportive of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTD). One of the tenants of CPTD is to increase visibility of retail establishments by keeping windows clean and uncluttered and making sure that clerks could see out to the street and citizens, as well as police officer, could see into a building from the street. Saint Paul crime prevention specialists have long encouraged businesses during community meetings, business reviews and one on one meetings to take down the clutter of signs.

Now we have an opportunity to put some teeth into this advice. Community councils and citizens from across the city are promoting an ordinance that would assure that no more than 25% of window space is blocked by window signs. While I personally would prefer that even less window space be blocked, I can enthusiastically get behind this proposal and strongly recommend that the mayor support this ordinance and the Council move quickly to enact it.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions on the matter.

Sincerely,

John Harrington
 State Senator
 District 67



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