



SAINT PAUL FEDERATION  
OF EDUCATORS LOCAL 28



St. Paul City Council  
15 W. Kellogg Blvd  
St. Paul MN 55102

May 11, 2020

Dear St. Paul City Councilmembers,

We applaud your effort to pass a comprehensive tenant protections policy for the City of Saint Paul. As a union of educators representing over 3,600 school and community service professionals, educational assistants, teachers and other licensed staff, our members regularly witness and also personally experience the toll of housing instability on kids and families in our city, and the last impacts of this trauma on our students in SPPS. We strongly support the proposed tenant protections ordinance for St. Paul and ask that you please vote YES on the ordinance.

In order for every kid in our community to have an excellent educational experience, it is imperative that we strengthen protections for Saint Paul families who regularly face the threat of homelessness or eviction throughout the school year and beyond. Today, too many barriers still exist that block some of our most impoverished and vulnerable families from getting into and staying in a home. This ordinance would directly address those inequities through the following key changes:

- Tenant screening criteria reforms and a limit on security deposits will help ensure nobody is screened or shut out of a place to live they could otherwise afford or qualify for
- Just cause notice will standardize landlord best practices to ensure a legally defined and acceptable just cause is the reason for terminating a tenancy, curbing arbitrary and informal de facto evictions and helping people stay in their homes
- A 90-day advance notice of sale to the city for certain multi-family buildings would create opportunity in the market for non-profit affordable housing developers to intervene and keep those homes affordable, and guarantee a protection period and/or relocation assistance to tenants who may otherwise be displaced in the sale
- Tenant rights and responsibilities information is a common-sense step that will dramatically improve landlord-tenant relationships and help make sure every renter in our city knows what their rights and resources are

This ordinance was already an essential policy for housing justice, but the COVID-19 pandemic has also starkly illuminated the crisis of housing in our communities that existed before, and vulnerable families and workers in our city need protections and a stable home now more than ever. We applaud your comprehensive and extensive stakeholder engagement to this point, and lift up the experiences and needs of our thousands of members, their families and the neighbors they love as one more collective testament to the critical necessity of this ordinance.

Thank you for your continued leadership for worker and housing justice in our city.

In solidarity,  
The Saint Paul Federation of Educators Local 28