



igniting community development

City Council of the City of Saint Paul  
310 City Hall-County Courthouse  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55119

May 17, 2012

Councilmembers,

Sparc supports Ordinance 12-26 to amend Legislative Code sections 63.200 and 65.600 and chapter 66 of the zoning code, to reduce of-street parking requirements for restaurants serving wine and beer.

As a neighborhood-based community development non-profit, we feel that with this amendment the City is taking an important step towards encouraging a thriving restaurant and café culture, as well as some corresponding job growth, in the City of Saint Paul. This is important for our neighborhoods as a whole, because one of the key factors in attracting residents to our neighborhoods is a vibrant neighborhood economy.

Sparc works to support entrepreneurs in their pursuit to open and expand businesses that serve the community. Reducing obstacles to the establishment and growth of restaurants is important for our neighborhoods. It is can be prohibitively challenging to provide sufficient off-street parking to meet current code on our historic commercial corridors, which were not originally built with large off-street parking lots. This amendment would help bring code in better alignment with the reality of the built environment of our commercial corridors.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment.

Sincerely,

Allison Sharkey  
Associate Director, Sparc

cc: Councilmember Melvin Carter  
Councilmember Amy Brendmoen  
Councilmember Russ Stark