



SAINT PAUL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 10, 2012

Councilmember Melvin Carter III  
310-A City Hall  
15 Kellogg Blvd., West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Pizza Luce Parking Lot

Dear Councilmember Carter,

Over the past six months Saint Paul has made a lot of news about planned business expansions within its borders. Signs of an expanding business base is usually a pleasing signal of a city's growth and vitality, yet the stories here in Saint Paul have focused on the small but vocal opposition that have brought barriers to such expansion and growth. Such is the case of the Pizza Luce's proposed parking expansion on Selby Avenue. Here we have a scenario that is almost absurdly the exact reverse situation to the Cupcake dilemma faced not more than one week ago. In this case, a thriving neighborhood business has purchased a small lot to create additional parking spaces to please neighbors and move customers' cars off of neighborhood streets. The lot is currently zoned for the proposed use, a parking lot, but does require two setback variances to proceed. The variances have been approved by the district council and the Board of Zoning Appeals, but a small group of residents have appealed the decision.

It is clear from the Council's actions last week in dealing with the Cupcake parking situation that members are both willing and able to work with business owners and residents to find ways to allow small business growth in Saint Paul. The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is very supportive of this approach and hopes that similar consideration will be given to Pizza Luce's request in order to preserve and promote a business friendly reputation for Saint Paul.

Sincerely,

Zach Schwartz  
Manager Public Affairs  
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

cc  
Council President Kathy Lantry  
Councilmember Dan Bostrom  
Councilmember Amy Brendmoen  
Councilmember Russ Stark  
Councilmember Dave Thune  
Councilmember Chris Tolbert



// Chamber of Commerce Center // 401 North Robert Street, Suite 150 // Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101