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Subj: Proposed Restaurant On-Sale Liquor Charter Amendment

Commissioners,

As you are all fully aware, it's an exciting time for the City of Saint Paul. Increasing population and resulting robust housing growth, a record-setting \$718 M in 2014 private sector development investment, implementation of the Green Line and the opening CHS field clearly indicate the City is in the middle of a vibrant resurgence. Continued and emerging business opportunities along the Green Line, the Schmidt Brewery development district, the 120-acre Ford site and now the upcoming new 20,000 Midway seat soccer stadium all place the City in an attractive position for unprecedented growth and development. In order to sustain this momentum and encourage continued reinvestment, we are challenged to revisit our codes and prudently adjust barriers to marketplace opportunities where necessary. To stay competitive with Minneapolis and surrounding communities we are proposing changes to how the City manages liquor licenses for restaurants in Saint Paul.

Over the past year, the Department of Safety and Inspections worked with Council Members, District Councils, the City's Business Review Council, business owners, and residents to evaluate restaurant market conditions impacting Saint Paul's vibrant restaurant market. One major issue identified was the ability of existing or new restaurant operators to obtain an on-sale liquor license in the City of Saint Paul. This work has brought us to the Charter Amendment language before you. The attached documents provide additional information on the proposed Amendment.

The Mayor and all Council Members have expressed their support for the language. The current Council is interested in completing this work before the end of their current terms. To achieve this, we are requesting that if you support the amendment, please vote to not require a second reading by the Charter Commission. This will allow the City Council to have their Public Hearing on December 2, 2015.

Please let me know if you have any questions, need any additional information, or would like to meet prior to your November 10 Charter Commission. You can direct all questions and inquiries to my Deputy Director Dan Niziolek (651-266-9108) who is leading our efforts on this amendment.

Sincerely,

Ricardo



**Ricardo X. Cervantes**

***Director***

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***“DSI’s Mission: To preserve and improve the quality of life in Saint Paul by protecting and promoting public health and safety for all.”***