



SAINT PAUL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 16, 2012

Council President Kathy Lantry  
1400 City Hall Annex  
25 Fourth Street W  
Saint Paul MN 55102-1623

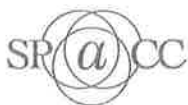
RE: Ord 12-26 Amending Legislative Code sections 63.200 parking requirements

Dear Council President Lantry and Councilmembers,

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the Planning Commission recommendations to reduce parking requirements for establishments serving alcohol and closing by midnight. We believe this will be a positive change with a direct impact on the economic development of Saint Paul. Specifically, it will reduce costs and simplify the process of opening on a class of business in the city that remains in high demand and contributes to the variety, character, and quality of life of a first class city like Saint Paul.

The changes contemplated in ordinance 12-26 build on the important work started by the Council in 2010 when it passed comprehensive amendments to city requirements for off-street parking. The stated goals of those amendments were to:

- Better align parking requirements with demand to reduce oversupply and undersupply of parking
- Balance the interests of residents, businesses, institutions, government, and customers
- Encourage development / redevelopment / reuse
- Simplify the City's off-street parking code for ease of interpretation and implementation
- Encourage efficient land use and reduce blight
- Support multi-modal transportation options
- Increase environmental stewardship



Ordinance 12-26 advances each of the important goals listed above. We appreciate the thoughtful and comprehensive study undertaken by city staff and the Planning Commission that resulted in these recommendations. We believe they strike the right balance between the concerns of existing businesses and residents living in and adjacent to commercial areas that are most likely to be impacted on the one hand, and the importance of new development and redevelopment on the other. Ultimately the entire city will benefit from the increased vibrancy and economic vitality changes like this will facilitate.

We respectfully request that you vote YES on the proposed amendments in Ordinance 12-26.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James McClean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James McClean

Director of Public Affairs

Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

cc

Mayor Chris Coleman

Councilmember Melvin Carter

Councilmember Dave Thune

Councilmember Chris Tolbert

Councilmember Russ Stark

Councilmember Amy Brendmoen

Councilmember Dan Bostrom