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The City should include labor peace language in any request for proposals or contracts for solid waste collection and in the organized solid waste collection plan. Labor peace has successfully prevented work stoppages due to labor disputes. The city should consider doing this because it works well for everyone.

A labor peace requirement is a proven method of maximizing efficiency in solid waste collection by protecting the cities proprietary interest in the uninterrupted performance of solid waste collection services.

Labor peace language specifically prohibits work stoppages such as picketing or strikes and it requires submission of labor disputes to binding arbitration to prevent disruption of services.

The possibility of work stoppages in solid waste collection is a serious concern to the city. Work stoppages in the solid waste collection pose a threat to public health and safety.

Accumulating waste would cause foul odors, would be unsightly, would attract vermin, and could even increase the risks of communicable disease. Uncollected trash would have a negative impact on the appearance of the City and its appeal as a desirable place to live work and visit.

Additionally work stoppages would present a financial challenge to the City. The City would have to find an alternative means of collection very quickly or risk the significant accumulation of uncollected trash. It may be difficult for the city to find a cost-effective replacement on short notice, and the City may incur considerable costs in the process.

The City is planning on entering a contract for organize collection for five to seven years. This would be a significant commitment by the City. As mentioned earlier the adverse financial and other negative impacts on the City with a disruption in solid waste collection services is likely to be significant. Labor peace would ensure that the City of St. Paul would not experience any interruptions in service due to work stoppages. Notably, this proposal that has emerged is not a credible alternative to labor peace and would not ensure the prevention of work stoppages.



Sincerely, Paul Slattery, Political Director, Teamsters local 120