



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin Carter, Mayor

375 Jackson Street., Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-9101
Facsimile: 651-266-1919
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

DATE: November 16, 2018

TO: City of Saint Paul Mayor and City Council Members

RXC FROM: Ricardo Cervantes-Director of the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI)

SUBJECT: 2019 Department of Safety and Inspections Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) Fee Increase

In support of Mayor Carter's 2019 budget, the Department of Safety and Inspections seeks to increase Sewer Availability Charge administrative fees as described in Chapter 77.07 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code. These administrative fees are collected in order for DSI staff to administer and collect SACs paid to the Metropolitan Council as a result of a 'change of use' in an existing building or as a result of new construction.

Currently, customers who are more knowledgeable about their specific property and/or the SAC fee program, frequently request that DSI review relevant records to determine if the Metropolitan Council levied SAC fees are accurate. These staff reviews have resulted in significant cost savings for many DSI customers in the past three years (see attached cost savings summary). Current DSI staffing levels only allow this level of service upon request by the customer.

The proposed amendment will provide funding to hire ½ additional FTEs to ensure that all customers receive this same level of service anytime a SAC fee is required and will ensure that all customers are only paying the SAC fees they are responsible for. This fee increase, while substantial, has been carefully crafted so that it is progressive in nature and has only minimal impact on smaller projects/businesses. In addition, DSI has compared the proposed fees to other municipalities in the region and found them to be comparable.

For additional questions please contact me at 651-266-9101 or Deputy Director Travis Bistodeau at 651-266-1922.