

**Extending City of Saint Paul
Emergency Declaration COVID-19
March 13, 2022**

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly known as COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a newstrain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that a local emergency existed within Saint Paul, effective March 15, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-550 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until June 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective June 8, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-874 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until September 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective September 8, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020 the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-1249 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until December 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2020, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective November 30, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2020 the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 20-1652 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until March 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective March 1, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-326 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until June 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective June 1, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-852 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until September 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective August 31, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-1305 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for ninety days, until November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on November 29, 2021, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective November 29, 2021, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2021, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 21-1749 approved that declaration and extended the emergency for thirty-five days, until Wednesday, January 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022, I declared under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, that the local emergency continued to exist within Saint Paul, effective January 3, 2022, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13; and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2022, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 22-63, approved that declaration and extended the emergency for thirty-five days, until Sunday, February 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2022, the Saint Paul City Council, in RES 22-238, approved the declaration and extended the emergency for thirty-three days, until Sunday, March 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenges to our City; and

WHEREAS, as of March 7, 2022 there were 122,295 reported cases of COVID-19 in Ramsey County, and 1,308 COVID-19 related deaths; and

WHEREAS, amid promising downward trends of case rates, positivity rates, and hospitalizations in Ramsey County, data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as of March 3, 2022, provides that the reported cases per 100,000 is 118.11, hospital admissions per 100,000 are 6.1, and percentage of hospital beds occupied are at 5.9%; and

WHEREAS, these promising public health metric trends, combined with the fact that 81% of those eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine (5 and older) in Ramsey County have received at least one vaccine dose, demonstrates progress toward ending this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control now determined the COVID Community Level in Ramsey County is Low as of March 10, 2022, based on COVID-19 hospital admissions, inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, and total new COVID-19 cases in the past seven days; and

WHEREAS, due to the Low COVID Community Level in Ramsey County, on March 10, 2022, I signed EO 2022-17 rescinding EO 2022-14 relating to face coverings in City-Controlled Property; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present unprecedented and rapidly evolving challenges to our City, especially related to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the now 24-month public health emergency has impacted the residents and businesses of Saint Paul, causing an economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, many businesses are still utilizing and dependent on City COVID business support measures and removal of these business supports now would further harm these fragile and struggling businesses; and

WHEREAS, as Small Business Pulse Survey - MN Small Business reported:

Over 3 week period of February 14th – March 6th:

- A greater percentage of businesses reported equal to or less level revenue generation in 2022 than 2021;
- A much larger percentage in 2022 than 2021 (52% versus 35%) of businesses reported supplier delays and difficulties in finding alternative suppliers;
- A greater percentage of businesses reported equal to or less hours;

Over the last 3 weeks:

- There was nearly a 10% increase in businesses reporting difficulties hiring paid staff; and

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) most-recent data on the impact of COVID-19 in Minnesota includes:

- The percentage of Minnesota Residents who reported difficulty paying for usual household expenses in the last 7 days:
 - 30.4% responded “not at all difficult”
 - 21.5% responded “a little difficult”
 - 28.6% responded “somewhat difficult”
 - 19.5% responded “very difficult”
- The percentage of households who were unable to pay an energy bill or unable to pay the full bill amount:
 - 11.4% responded “almost every month”
 - 16.0% responded “some months”
 - 30.5% responded “1 or two months”
 - 42.1% responded “never”
- The percentage of households who reported a likelihood of leaving their home due to eviction in next two months:
 - 6.6% responded “very likely”

- 26.0% responded “somewhat likely”
- 14.8% responded “not very likely”
- 52.7% responded “not likely at all”

WHEREAS, it is likely that the DEED statistics under-represent the impact in Saint Paul. During the course of the pandemic, small businesses in metropolitan areas have been hit harder than those in rural areas. According to a report by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), *The Effects Of The COVID-19 Pandemic On Small Businesses* (released March 2, 2021), in April 2020, the number of people in metropolitan areas who were working and self-employed was 21 percent lower than in April 2019. Outside of those areas, the decline was only 13 percent. In subsequent months, the decline in metropolitan areas continued to exceed the decline outside of metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 3 in 5 small businesses in Minnesota report at least a moderate negative impact on their business from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a Pew Center survey published March 5, 2021, among those who say their financial situation has gotten worse during the pandemic, 44% think it will take them three years or more to get back to where they were a year ago – including about one-in-ten who don’t think their finances will ever recover. Also, about half of workers who personally lost wages during the pandemic (49%) are still earning less money than before the coronavirus outbreak started; and

WHEREAS, due to the present economic crisis, as articulated above, it remains necessary for the City to provide economic support to individuals and businesses alike to ensure that Saint Paul recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic disaster; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency, I have exercised executive authority through more than 111 Executive Orders to provide relief and further prepare our City for the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these Executive Orders remain in effect only as long as the emergency continues; and

WHEREAS, the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed resources available within the City, and additional resources will be needed from Ramsey County, and state and federal sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, MAYOR MELVIN CARTER III, OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL
DECLARES, REQUESTS, AND DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Under the authority given in Minnesota Statutes §12.29, declares that a local emergency continues to exist within Saint Paul, on March 13, 2022, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Chapter 12, Minnesota Statutes, and Saint Paul Legislative Code, Chapter 13. This declaration supersedes all prior declarations.
2. Directs City departments to review ordinance and regulatory requirements, operations, civil and legal proceedings, events, and resources that can and should be adjusted or suspended, or to enact emergency regulations to support and protect the residents and businesses of Saint Paul as they grapple with the negative economic impacts of the pandemic.
3. Directs the Saint Paul Director of Emergency Management to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, the Ramsey County Division of

- Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the State of Minnesota, as needed.
4. Requests the City Council convene at its earliest convenience to discuss the situation and this declaration. This state of local emergency may not be continued for a period in excess of three days except by or with the consent of the Council of the City of Saint Paul.
 5. Orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the City Clerk.

Dated: March 13, 2022



Mayor Melvin Carter