Saint Paul Downtown Alliance

November 7, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

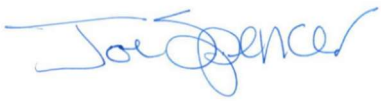
On behalf of the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, I am writing in strong support of the proposed "permit holiday" ordinance related to the 2025 World Juniors. This marks the first time since 1982 that Minnesota will host this international hockey tournament – an extraordinary opportunity to showcase our state's love of the game and our capital city's unmatched hospitality.

The Downtown Investment Strategy calls for a vibrant, people-centered downtown where activity, culture, and commerce thrive together. The World Juniors will bring that vision to life, filling our restaurants, hotels, and public spaces with energy and new visitors from across the world. Temporarily easing certain permitting and licensing requirements during this period will allow our local businesses and event organizers to focus on what they do best: creating welcoming, memorable experiences that reflect the spirit of Saint Paul.

We also appreciate the City's proactive and collaborative approach in developing this proposal. The close coordination between departments and community partners reflects a thoughtful understanding of both operational realities and the needs of downtown's business community. The proposed adjustments are intentionally limited in duration and scope, ensuring the City retains full oversight while providing flexibility during this unique event window.

This balance between safety, practicality, and partnership exemplifies what makes Saint Paul work. The Downtown Alliance is proud to support this initiative and to partner with the City in ensuring the success of the 2025 World Juniors. Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Saint Paul's future.

Sincerely,



Joe Spencer
President
Saint Paul Downtown Alliance