ST PAUL
AREA CHAMBER

MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

401 N Robert Street, Suite 150
St. Paul, MN 55101

November 12, 2025

Council President Rebecca Noecker
Councilmember Anika Bowie
Councilmember Saura Jost
Councilmember Molly Coleman
Council Vice President Hwa Jeong Kim
Councilmember Nelsie Yang
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson

Re: Support for Permit Holiday Ordinances for World Juniors Hockey Tournament

Dear Council President Noecker and members of the City Council,

On behalf of the St. Paul Area Chamber and our 1,600+ members and affiliates, I write to express our support for the proposed ordinances that would create a Permit Holiday during the World Juniors Hockey Tournament.

The World Juniors will draw thousands of visitors to downtown Saint Paul, providing a welcome boost for restaurants, retailers, and hospitality businesses. The proposed Permit Holiday ordinances reflect thoughtful planning to accommodate increased activity and help local establishments make the most of a world-class event.

Temporary measures like this can also serve as valuable learning opportunities. Evaluating the outcomes—both logistical and economic—would inform future efforts to streamline permitting for major events and strengthen the city's reputation as a partner to local enterprise. We hope the City will continue exploring permitting practices that promote flexibility for local businesses.

We also want to acknowledge the consideration of temporary signage flexibility. During our recent InterCity Leadership Visit to Detroit, we saw firsthand how visible signage contributed to a sense of energy and welcome. While we understand procedural limits prevented temporary signage flexibility from moving forward, we appreciate the City's recognition of its potential and hope to see exploration of similar options in the future.

The Permit Holiday represents a practical, well-timed step that will directly benefit downtown businesses, and we urge the Council to approve these temporary changes.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. Kyle

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President and CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber