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TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL NO. 32

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St. Paul City Council
15 W. Kellogg Blvd
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May 11, 2020

Dear St. Paul City Councilmembers,

We are proud to partner with you for a healthy and stable community that creates equal opportunity for all residents. As a labor union representing over 12,000 workers and their families across the City of St. Paul, Minnesota and beyond, our members see firsthand every day the necessity of safe and stable housing. For this reason, we strongly support the proposed tenant protections for St. Paul, and ask that you please vote YES on the ordinance.

Workers and working families in our community deserve free and fair access to the rental housing market. Today, too many barriers still exist that block some of our most impoverished and vulnerable residents from getting into and staying in a home. This ordinance would directly address those inequities through the following key changes:

- Tenant screening criteria reforms and a limit on security deposits will help ensure nobody is screened or shut out of a place to live they could otherwise afford.
- Just cause notice will standardize landlord best practices to ensure a legally defined and acceptable just cause is the reason for terminating a tenancy, curbing arbitrary and informal de facto evictions and helping people stay in their homes
- A 90-day advance notice of sale to the city for certain multi-family buildings would create opportunity in the market for non-profit affordable housing developers to intervene and keep those homes affordable, and guarantee a protection period and/or relocation assistance to tenants who may otherwise be displaced in the sale
- Tenant rights and responsibilities information is a common-sense step that will dramatically improve landlord-tenant relationships and help make sure every renter in our city knows their rights

This ordinance was already an essential policy for housing justice, but the COVID-19 pandemic has starkly illuminated the housing crises.

Thank you for your continued leadership for worker and housing justice in our city.

In solidarity,

Paul Slattery
Teamsters Local 120