



May 14, 2020

City of Saint Paul  
15 W. Kellogg Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Carter and members of the Saint Paul City Council,

We are proud to partner with you for a healthy and stable community that creates equal opportunity for all residents. As the regional affiliate of the AFL-CIO, the nation's largest and strongest labor federation, representing over 50,000 workers and their families both across the City of Saint Paul and the East Metro area, our members see and experience firsthand every day the necessity of safe and stable housing. For this reason, we strongly support the proposed tenant protections ordinance for Saint Paul, and we 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 or qualify for
- 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 what their rights and resources are

This ordinance was already an essential policy for housing justice, but the COVID-19 pandemic has also starkly illuminated the crisis of housing in our communities that existed before, and vulnerable families and workers in our city need protections and a stable home now more than ever. We applaud your comprehensive and extensive stakeholder engagement to this point and lift-up the experiences and needs of our thousands of members, their families, and the neighbors they love as one more collective testament to the critical necessity of this ordinance.

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

In Solidarity,

President  
Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation