



Mayor Carter and Council Members  
City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 551

Dear Mayor Carter and City Council Members of Saint Paul:

I am writing on behalf of the India Association of Minnesota (IAM), the representative organization for Asian Indians in Minnesota since 1973. We are a non-profit organization connecting Asian Indians in Minnesota for over 47 years. There are over 50,000 Asian Indians living in Minnesota who call Minnesota their home. Large numbers of our community live in the city of Saint Paul.

IAM strongly affirms the values and respect for the rule of law, freedom of religion, protection of minority and indigenous groups from violent acts on people and property and the need to protect and uphold the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitutions of India and the United States.

IAM was recently made aware of the introduction of a resolution pertaining to India in both the City Councils of Saint Paul ([RES 20-712](#)) and Minneapolis. IAM is concerned that these resolutions speak for the people of Indian origin who reside in both Saint Paul and Minneapolis, but yet neither governmental body has followed due diligence by asking its residents in general and people of Indian origin in particular for their input and views on such a resolution. As such, a resolution endorsed by our elected bodies loses its legitimacy as it does not represent the voices of those they represent.

Public input is routinely obtained on other resolutions passed by elected bodies and should be followed in this case as well. The India Association of Minnesota offers to support the City Councils of Minneapolis and Saint Paul to obtain the input from their residents of Indian origin on the topic of the resolution in a spirit of democratic participation.

Until such input of the governed is obtained, it is advisable that the City Councils of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and the Mayors of Saint Paul and Minneapolis postpone consideration of the resolution. Please also add this letter to the public record.

Sincerely

Sreeni Checka  
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*India Association of Minnesota (IAM), founded in 1973, is an umbrella coalition organization representing 50,000+ Asian Indians (the second largest group of foreign born Minnesotans) and 50+ partner organizations that represent cultural, regional, service, spiritual, religious, and social causes across the community.*