

ISAIAH
2356 University Ave West, Suite #405
Saint Paul, MN 55114

Dear City Council President and the City Council,

As you know, ISAIAH is committed to advancing a multi-racial democracy and a caring economy both in Saint Paul and throughout Minnesota.

Whether we are White, Black or Brown, all deserve basic human dignity and equal protection. Yet, this is not experienced by all Saint Paulites. With our current economic crisis and as more and more families lose their income, housing stability for our renters (who make up 51% of Saint Paulites) is even further jeopardized. For example, a renter can be forced to leave within 30 days without any idea of why it happened. This creates even greater housing instability and widens structural inequities for those of color and low income.

We already had a housing crisis before COVID-19 started. Now is not the time to backtrack on ensuring stability and safety for all in our community.

We have an opportunity to put powerful protections in place to ensure that renters are able to remain in their homes and be treated with dignity through Saint Paul's tenant protections ordinance!

We strongly believe that the following protections in the ordinance will continue to advance housing justice in Saint Paul.

- Tenant screening criteria 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 evictions and helping people stay in their homes
- Advance notice of sale will slow down the rapid loss of NOAH in our communities that is fueling displacement and give preservation and affordable buyers more time to bring forth deals that could help tenants stay housed and improve our city
- Tenant rights and responsibilities information 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 developed over a process that spanned years of administrations, the current Council, engagement sessions in every city ward, and ongoing discussions with over 50 community organizations, with every stakeholder and perspective included.

The time is now for bold leadership on housing. We ask the city council to pass this ordinance in full to ensure no renter is treated without dignity and respect in Saint Paul.

Sincerely,

ISAIAH St. Paul

