

June 9, 2021

via email

City Council President Amy Brendmoen
City Councilmember Dai Thao
City Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
City Councilmember Chris Tolbert

City Councilmember Mitra Jalali
City Councilmember Nelsie Yang
City Councilmember Jane Prince

President Brendmoen and Councilmembers,

The St. Paul Area Chamber strongly encourages you to pull Ordinance 21-20 from consideration.

Businesses in St. Paul and across the Twin Cities are experiencing a labor shortage. Chamber members who I've spoken with on this issue find the ordinance to be nonsensical, as every employee they have work for has been recalled. Creating an ordinance, with additional reporting requirements in a time when many are still just trying to make it, is unnecessary overreach by city government.

There is no effort of employers to not re-hire workers. Job losses and economic insecurity are the fault of the Covid-19 pandemic, not our St. Paul businesses. Several businesses are reporting to me that they have former workers who have declined coming back when offers are made. No one I know is deliberately passing over qualified employees when they have work to be done. Quite the opposite.

Most importantly - beyond the logistics and intrusion of city government into the employer-employee relationship, this ordinance amplifies the vilification of businesses in St. Paul. It implies that there is action so negative that it requires council response. If you want to support the City's transition back to a fully functioning economy, it is time to remove barriers to employers, not pile on. It is time to assist with consumer confidence and recruiting new businesses into St. Paul. Please do not amplify the idea that it is difficult to do business here, and that city government is not supportive of employers.

I urge you, on behalf of businesses across St. Paul, to reconsider the value of one more regulation to an industry that has already suffered massive losses. In order to build back better, we all need to find a way to support those businesses, so workers and visitors have a vibrant St. Paul to come back to.

Thank you for your service to our city, and for your consideration of this important request.



B Kyle

President and CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber

