

NEWS RELEASE
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Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Issues Statement in Response to 2021 Budget Proposal

SAINT PAUL, MN, (August 21, 2020) – Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO B Kyle has issued the following statement in response to Mayor Carter's 2021 budget proposal:

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce is encouraged by Mayor Carter's efforts to make tough decisions for next year's city budget, including identifying operational efficiencies and managing vacancies. We especially appreciate the proposal to keep property taxes flat. We recognize the significant challenge it is to address the city's financial situation, in light of increased emergency expenditures and declining revenues, as every business across the country is making the same kind of decisions right now.

As we move forward with this conversation, it is important that the City Council also understand the employer community cannot take on extra burdens at this time, if we want our entire community to be able to grow our way out of the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19. The most efficient tool for recovery is a good paying job, and assisting Saint Paul employers' ability to bring people back to work must be an absolute priority. If a business can't afford to stay in operation or stay in Saint Paul, their absence will only make the recovery take longer for all of us.

Now is the time to be an aggressively responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. As the voice of the business community, we stand ready to work with Mayors and City Councils, both in Saint Paul and across the region, to find efficiencies and allow cities to prioritize the essential services that only local government can provide, such as public safety, public spaces, snowplowing and street maintenance. The next few years are going to be about the need-to-have, not the nice-to-have.

Working together, we will make it out of this pandemic if we focus on government operations that are efficient and cost-effective, and help our entire community recover as soon as possible. We look forward to continuing the conversation.

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About the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber is a dynamic network of employers and individuals organized to deliver economic opportunity for its members. For more than 150 years, the Chamber has served as a gateway to business advantage. More than 1,200 organizations of all sizes and industries across the region belong to the Chamber. More information can be found at www.saintpaulchamber.com.

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