



July 8, 2025

Honorable Mayor Carter
Honorable Members of the Saint Paul City Council
390 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Honorable Mayor Carter, Honorable Members of the Saint Paul City Council, Staff,

The City of Saint Paul's Business Review Council respectfully submits this letter of opposition to the proposed Drive-Through Zoning code amendments. The BRC has the following concerns with the zoning proposal in its current language:

- It creates unnecessary barriers for new businesses trying to establish themselves in Saint Paul.
- Instead of encouraging economic opportunities, it sends an unwelcoming message to businesses considering Saint Paul as a place to invest.
- It weakens Saint Paul's ability to compete with surrounding municipalities for job creation, commercial activity, and new development.
- Many residents – including seniors, parents with young children, and individuals with disabilities – depend on drive-throughs for safe, convenient access to everyday needs.
- Businesses lose the ability to evolve with new technologies that make drive-throughs more efficient and responsive to customer needs.
- The ordinance lacks a clear rationale, making it hard to identify the specific problem it targets.

The BRC supports exploring additional safety measures that will benefit both residents and business owners and welcomes further discussion on implementing these solutions in ways that do not hinder business growth in Saint Paul. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

R Lynn Pingol, Chair
Business Review Council