

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **St. Paul Area Chamber Issues Statement in Response to 2025 Budget Proposal**

**Saint Paul, MN (August 13, 2024)** - St. Paul Area Chamber President and CEO B Kyle issued the following statement in response to Mayor Carter's 2025 budget proposal.

*The St. Paul Area Chamber looks forward to digging into the fiscal details of Mayor Carter's 2025 budget proposal. We recognize the significant challenges Saint Paul is facing. Inflationary costs for services and labor, a central business corridor that is at a crossroads, and a looming property tax crisis in the commercial market along with public safety and housing challenges are areas of concern for residents, employees, and the business community. The mayor's commitment to improving public safety, creating more housing, and working within the rent control ordinance to ensure development continues are admirable - and aligned with our own priorities. We applaud Mayor Carter's commitment to increasing available housing stock with his "all-in housing framework." His devotion to threading the needle on rent stabilization is recognized and appreciated.*

*It is important that the City Council understand the challenges being faced by the employer community, and the very real need to avoid further taxation and costs. Businesses are still struggling to provide services, hire workers, and serve their customers. As stakeholders work to revitalize our downtown business district, it is imperative that we continue finding ways to draw foot traffic to our economic corridors. We appreciate Mayor Carter's commitment to improving downtown. We also recognize that this is Mayor Carter's "toughest budget yet," and strongly support the prioritization of growing our economy, protecting the tax base, and encouraging business development.*

*Now is the time to focus on the core functions of government - public safety, public spaces, and public infrastructure, while also addressing the housing shortage and challenges facing downtown. Together, we will continue to make Saint Paul an amazing place to live, work, and play. We look forward to continued partnership in these shared priorities.*

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*About the St. Paul Area Chamber: 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 1,500 organizations of all sizes and industries across the region belong to the Chamber. More information can be found at [www.saintpaulchamber.com](http://www.saintpaulchamber.com).*

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