



NEWS RELEASE

As Saint Paul Discusses Implementing Sick and Safe Time Rules, Employers Join Together to Bring More Voices to the Conversation

Best of Saint Paul is a broad coalition focused on making sure Minnesota's Capitol city continues to be a place supporting workers and employers

Potential new rules would require certain-sized employers (a number not yet established by a city taskforce) be required to follow regulations regarding sick and safe time with enforcement by the City of Saint Paul

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(SAINT PAUL, MN) As the City of Saint Paul joins Minneapolis in looking at regulating sick leave at the city level, a group of community stakeholders are joining together to make sure more information and more voices are engaged in the process. Today The Best of Saint Paul website launched as did a new community outreach program focused on sharing more ideas, perspectives, and input with a city-appointed taskforce tasked with creating a sick and safe time framework for City Council consideration.

“Creating a single and effective way for every employer to provide sick leave and safe time for their employees is a very complex challenge,” said NAME GOES HERE, co-chair of The Best of Saint Paul. “We are a community that has so many great employers who already provide ways to support their employees. We want to make sure that decision-makers hear every voice in this conversation before they make any final decision. We believe that in Saint Paul the way decisions are made is incredibly important, especially on this exceedingly important issue.”

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In late February, the Saint Paul City Council formed a taskforce made up of 26 members representing a cross-section of Saint Paul. The group has been holding regular meetings to produce a recommendation to the City Council on a single ordinance that would require and regulate sick and safe time likely for every employer in the city.

While there were several community meetings and online information gathering about the issue before the taskforce was formed, there are currently no scheduled or official ways for employers or others to share their questions, concerns, or ideas as part of the taskforce process. The taskforce is scheduled to complete and outline the framework for the ordinance to the City Council in late May,. While there has not yet been a date set for when the Ccity Council will vote on an ordinance, sharing perspectives with elected officials is critical in the coming months.

“There are people across Saint Paul concerned about how input and information is being incorporated into any final decision,” said NAME GOES HERE. “The taskforce is probably focused on a simple, one-size-fits-all government solution that could do more harm than good for Saint Paul. . A government mandate prescribing how employers support their employees is a critically important conversation for Saint Paul employers, employees and customers.”

About The Best of Saint Paul

The Best of Saint Paul is working with businesses, organizations, residents and others from across the community to make sure any decisions that the City makes about sick and safe time will take into account the creativity, hard work, and strong commitment that employers in Saint Paul are already making to support and accommodate team members and their families.

The outreach work includes creating a website that provides information about the process, along with providing people with the ability to directly share perspectives with their City Council members. The group is also engaging employers from across the city to raise awareness of the issue, inform others of the taskforce process, and encourage everyone to be involved in the final outcome.

“In Saint Paul, we take great pride in the creative, innovative, and unique ways that employers work with their employees to create great workplaces,” said NAME GOES HERE. “Changing the rules for everyone will create the risk of doing more harm than good. We want to make sure decision-makers do not ignore the creativity, hard work and strong commitment of employers in Saint Paul as they support employees and their families.”

Business owner: “The Saint Paul City Council has raised up an important conversation. However, from an employer’s perspective, it is clear that this one-size-fits-all solution will not satisfy the highly diverse workforce that we have here in Saint Paul. The majority of employers in Saint Paul work hard to make sure that their employees are treated with dignity regarding their own health and their family’s health. City Hall needs to take employers insight into consideration before implementing any changes.”

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Business owner: "By no means are the supporters of the Best of Saint Paul advocating for fewer employee benefits, we are in fact doing the opposite. This is not an issue of people having fewer benefits to care for themselves or their families, but rather an issue of City Hall having a hand in managing our workplaces. The employers voice needs to be heard in this monumental conversation."

Employee: "One of the main reasons that I chose to work at INSERT COMPANY was because of their flexibility to work with each individual employee. The approach the City is marching toward could really hurt the great work environments that many employers provide and are proven to work with their unique business model."

For more information, please visit <http://www.bestofstpaul.com/>.

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