



SAINT PAUL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Building a Better Saint Paul PAC Mailer

SAINT PAUL, MN, (Friday, October 27, 2017) – On Thursday, voters received a direct mail piece from Building a Better Saint Paul, an independent and private political action committee. This piece referred to the break-in that occurred at the home of mayoral candidate Melvin Carter III. The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce (SPACC) and its Political Action Committee (PAC) denounce and repudiate this message in the strongest terms. Negative campaigning is in violation of the specific direction this group received from chamber leadership regarding use of these funds.

As an organization, we believe political campaigns should be about issues and a vision for the future. The approach taken in this direct mail piece clearly is contrary and absolutely wrong. The PAC will cease further contributions to Building a Better Saint Paul and chamber leadership will be reviewing our strategic approach to this process moving forward. All SPACC PAC funds used in the political process come directly from individual or business donations, not from general chamber membership dollars.

Our apology is threefold: first and foremost, we apologize to candidate Melvin Carter III, for this attack on his character; secondly, to candidate Pat Harris for being – however indirectly and unintentionally – associated with this; and thirdly, to our membership and the business community at large. We sincerely regret that we did not provide greater oversight of these efforts and for this we are truly sorry.

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and the Saint Paul Area Chamber Political Action Committee are engaged in the political process because it's important that government and the business community work well together to create a stronger community, provide good jobs, and contribute to everyone's economic well-being. We are hopeful that over the final 11 days in this campaign, voters will have a chance to hear about the important issues that matter to Saint Paul -- like equity, jobs, transit, taxes, housing, public safety, and education -- and encourage all organizations and candidates involved in this race to elevate their discourse over the remainder of the campaign. Our Chamber and Chamber PAC pledge to do the same.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Kyle".

Brenda L. Kyle
President/CEO