



March 15, 2023

The Honorable Senator Ron Latz
Judiciary & Public Safety Committee
Minnesota Senate
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3105
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: The City of Saint Paul supports SF 1549: Services relating to youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal or juvenile justice system

Dear Chair Latz and committee members,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I am writing to express my support for Senator Champion's SF 1549, which would provide grants to local units of government, nonprofits, and community organizations to support our youth who may be at risk of or are currently involved in the criminal and juvenile justice system.

Proactive investments in our residents, youth, and neighborhoods are paramount to reducing crime. Our Community-First Public Safety framework incorporates balanced investments that focus on a comprehensive, coordinated, and data-driven approach to addressing the root causes of crime.

One example of such investments is how we leveraged federal American Rescue Plan dollars to make sport recreational leagues free for our youth. The physical benefits of participating in sports and being active are clear. Studies show that physically active kids score better on tests, are more likely to go to college, have better self-esteem, and importantly, they are less likely to fall into a negative cycle of violence, crime, and drug use.

This is only one example of how grant funding provided by SF 1549 could positively impact our community. We know firsthand that there is a deep need for additional funding for innovative solutions that could tap into youth programming, mental health services, educational opportunities, mental health counseling, job training, and more.

I believe we all have a duty to give our youth the best possible chance to prosper. If passed, all of our communities will benefit from this bill. The City of Saint Paul supports the passage of SF 1549 and I thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

Melvin Carter
Mayor