

**From:** [Amanda Duerr](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment RES 23-1094  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 12:54:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[RES 23-1094 Testimony St. Paul Area Chamber 07.19.2023.pdf](#)

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Attached please find public comment on RES 23-1094 from the St. Paul Area Chamber.

Thank you,



**Amanda Duerr**  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
*St. Paul Area Chamber*

**ST PAUL**  
AREA CHAMBER

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# ST PAUL

## AREA CHAMBER

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MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

July 19, 2023

Council President Amy Brendmoen  
Councilmember Russel Balenger  
Councilmember Rebecca Noecker  
Councilmember Chris Tolbert

Councilmember Mitra Jalali  
Councilmember Nelsie Yang  
Councilmember Jane Prince

Re: RES 23-1094

Council President Brendmoen and Councilmembers:

The St. Paul Area Chamber is concerned about RES 23-1094, which would call a special election on November 5, 2024, asking whether the City should increase the property tax levy to fund subsidies for early childhood education and childcare.

The business community certainly recognizes the importance of childcare availability so parents do not have to choose between working and caring for their children. We also know that early childhood education is the foundation from which the future generation of workers is built. However, addressing these priorities is larger than any individual city can administer or fund through its property tax levy.

We feel that this statewide issue is best addressed at the state level, and that the City of St. Paul should focus on delivering municipal services. Later on today's agenda, the Council will be discussing placing a question on the 2023 ballot to increase the local sales tax by one percent to fund street repairs and park infrastructure. The fact that the City finds it necessary to seek a tax increase to fund core municipal responsibilities suggests that taking on early childhood may be beyond the scope of what is affordable and achievable to undertake.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Duerr  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
St. Paul Area Chamber

