January 23, 2023

Representative Mike Howard
Chair of the Committee on Housing Finance and Policy

Re: HF 315, HF 316 and HF 317

Dear Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

Safe, secure and sustained affordable housing is a critical foundation for stability in all other areas of life, such as employment, education, and health. Access to affordable housing is vital for the wellbeing of all residents of Minneapolis. In particular, it is critical that barriers to securing stable and affordable housing are overcome. Recognizing that an individual's housing needs may change over time or due to circumstance, all parts of the housing continuum are important to maintain, invest in and support. It's also important for property owners to maintain rental homes in safe and healthy conditions for tenants and for there to be fair business practices in rental housing.

Minnesota law states that landlords must give tenants "reasonable notice" to enter their apartments for non-emergency reasons. The City of Minneapolis supports a minimum 24-hour notice from the landlord prior to entering a tenant's home (HF 315). The City also supports an expansion of emergency issues beyond what is listed in state law, to allow an expedited process for renters to enforce their right to a safe home (HF 316). Current law does not explicitly give a tenant a right to break their lease due to a medical condition. The City of Minneapolis supports adoption of this language in state statute, to protect our most vulnerable residents and allow them to access needed healthcare (HF 317). Lastly, the City is supportive of establishing Source of Income Protection for Minneapolis renters (HF 445).

These tenant protection bills will positively benefit renters not only in the City of Minneapolis, but across the state. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of these important pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

Elfric K. Porte, II.
Director, Housing Policy & Development
Community Planning and Economic Development
City of Minneapolis