

From: [Tony Aarts](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Regarding Wednesday public hearing on third amendment to rent control ordinance
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:41:06 PM

Hello,

My name is Tony Aarts, and I live at 1878 Juliet Ave., St Paul 55105. I wanted to submit my comments for the record in support of the third amendment proposed by Council Member Jalali.

The proposed amendment would allocate \$635,000 for rent control implementation via the Department of Safety and Inspections, the city council, and the city attorney's office. As Council Member Jalali stated in the Pioneer Press, "The expectation is future budget cycles would continue a standing request for staffing."

It is probably fair to say that many, many of us have seen ordinances, work groups, and critical policies voted in, passed and approved, but later we learn that such work is sorely underfunded or understaffed or both. I appreciate the forward way council members and partners are working to lay a solid foundation for the rent control ordinance. This proposed third amendment would be a very solid first step in supporting implementation and making it clear that such an ordinance requires sustained support/staffing for the months/years ahead.

Waiting until later to allocate supporting funds for the work ahead would be anxiety-inducing at the minimum and possibly incredibly detrimental at the worst. I don't mean to be hyperbolic; I've seen this very thing happen to some very well-meaning and supported initiatives on both sides of the river in past years.

I hope this amendment is adopted. It is exciting to see the rent control ordinance beginning to pick up steam. With 53% of Saint Paul voters and 6 out of 7 wards pushing for this rent control ordinance, it will be important for residents to continue to have space to share comments and ideas as the policy moves forward.

Sincerely,
Tony Aarts