

November 10, 2023

Saint Paul City Council

Via Email: Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members:

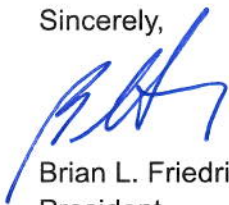
Greetings from Concordia University, St. Paul, where we prepare students for lives of service to God and humanity. For the past 130 years, CSP has been part of St. Paul's rich higher education tradition. Over these decades, we've committed to remaining in this city, serving students from Saint Paul, and being a good neighbor.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Councilmember Russel Balenger to discuss his proposal to rename Concordia Avenue to Rondo Avenue along its historic route from Griggs Street east to Kellogg Boulevard and Marion Street. Concordia University, St. Paul, stands firmly in support of his proposal. I am especially grateful to Councilmember Balenger for his leadership and service to the residents of Saint Paul.

Concordia St. Paul acknowledges the deep pain and ongoing impacts of the decision to route Interstate 94 through the Rondo neighborhood, as well as the loss of Rondo Avenue due to the construction and renaming. While restoring the name Rondo does not bring back what was lost or alleviate the harm done to residents of Saint Paul, we hope that this move will celebrate the vibrant history of Rondo, recognize residents affected by the construction of I-94, and perpetually memorialize the importance of the Rondo community to the City of Saint Paul.

We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this process and thank the Council for its work on behalf of all who live and work within our beautiful city.

Sincerely,



Brian L. Friedrich, MDiv, PhD
President