From: Grand Avenue Business Association

To: *CI-StPaul Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)

Cc: <u>Chris Jensen</u>

Subject: RES PH 24-109 Grand Ave Assessment Roll Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 9:01:34 AM

June 12, 2024

Dear Council President Jalali and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

On behalf of the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA), I am writing this note for entry into the public record for the City Council meeting today at 3:30pm for RES PH 24-109, Final Order approving the reconstruction of streets in the 2024 Saint Paul Streets Program (2024 SPS) as it pertains to the Grand Avenue Assessment Roll.

First, GABA would like to thank the City's Public Works Department for the effort at designing, planning and communicating the Grand Avenue road reconstruction project as part of its 2024 St Paul Streets Program. GABA is excited about the investment in this Western portion of Grand Ave (between Fairview and Snelling) to build a street that is safe and attractive for our businesses and community now and into the future. We hope planning can begin soon on the Eastern portion of Grand as well!

However, it is important to note that the assessments for this project are significant and will likely ultimately be borne by small business tenants. These assessments create a financial hardship at a time in which businesses will also suffer from up to two years of road closures and limited business access. GABA plans to help communicate with our local businesses and community during construction and explore ways to encourage patronage of local businesses. We encourage the City's support of these efforts, consideration of other measures of relief, and recognition of the significant challenges our business community is facing.

Sincerely,

Kim O'Brien

Executive Director



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