

Mosaic Christian Community

540 East Wheelock Pkwy(physical address)
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www.mosaicstpaul.org

October 5, 2016

Mr. President and Members of the Council,

My name is Jeff O'Rourke, I am the Pastor of Mosaic Christian Community, formerly St.Paul 1st Church of the Nazarene. I want to start by saying thank you to the council for all of their work. I would like to send special greetings to Ward 5 Council Woman, Amy Brendmoen. I want to thank her and her Legislative Aid, Kim O'Brien for taking the time to communicate with me during this Wheelock assessment process. I have appreciated her efforts to lower assessment costs on this project.

Mosaic Christian Community is located at 540 E. Wheelock Pkwy. Four years ago Mosaic launched as a new start of St.Paul 1st Church of the Nazarene, which had been serving St.Paul's East Side for over 80 years. Mosaic is a Multi-Ethnic, community focused ministry. We are as Multi- Ethnic and diverse as St.Pauls Eastside. We are Multi-Ethnic in race, education and economic status.

The vision for Mosaic is to mobilize and equip our community to live a lifestyle of hospitality. We are actively pursuing that vision and currently provide multiple need meeting and community building resources, not just to those who gather with us on Sundays but to all of our neighbors in the Payne/Pahlen neighborhood.

We have worked tirelessly to clean up and update our facility and property in order to be a functional space for community events and gatherings. Mosaic is a polling station for some 2,000 residents as well as a sight for St.Paul Schools Summer Feeding Program. We have mobilized and equipped our neighbors to host car clinics, bike clinics, refugee gardens, community gardens and gardening classes for the youth in our neighborhood.

Our weekly Summer Block Parties and Movie Nights provide a safe hospitable place for neighbors to come and get to know each other. Our Annual Trunk N Treat and Easter Eggstravaganza welcome hundreds of neighbors for free, safe, family fun. Our children and youth activities provide more than a safe place to hang out. We are building relationships with these youth and their families, mentoring, serving and teaching them leadership skills. We have hosted over 300 individuals from around the country who have come to spend anywhere from a weekend to a week serving our neighborhood. We have partnered with Breaking Free, Bridging, New Life Family services, Arrive Ministries, St.Paul Police and other Twin Cities Churches to bring more resources to our neighbors.

Mosaic has been the sight for two new Hmong Church plants and one Liberian Church Plant. We are currently working on setting up an after school program in both French and English with the French Emersion School. We have an onsite Parish Nurse and 2 individuals that are going through the process of becoming Board of Immigration certified. It is our hope to open a Multi-Ethnic Resource center to offer Immigration Services, Parish Nursing and other need meeting resources.

We are here tonight to share with you our involvement in bettering our great city but we also want you to know the strain this assessment puts on our ability to be a resource. Our total Assessment is \$48,208. Last year Mosaic raised just over \$99,000. Our revenue is about a 50/50 split with fifty percent of our funds being raised locally the rest coming from out of state support and fundraising. We do not operate on a surplus. We, like many of the people we serve, are a pay check to pay check family. The monthly payment on our assessment loan will be the equivalent of a staff position or an entire summer of block parties. We will be looking at what services we have to cut in order to pay this assessment.

We understand and appreciate the beautiful new road, sidewalks and bike trail. We also understand how residents must contribute to the costs of the community. We believe we can contribute greater value to our community in other ways. I would ask you to consider to reduce or exempt us from this large assessment. If this is not possible, is there programs or entities that you are aware of that we could reach out to for help in paying our assessment? I would also ask that in the future you please consider the strain these huge assessments put on community minded nonprofits.

Thank you for your time, please know that we pray for you and the work you are doing for the great city of St.Paul. I would also like to invite you to come and be our guest at any of our events and gatherings.

Peace for today,

Pastor Jeff O'Rourke

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