

November 6, 2017

Diana Halicki
781 Cook Ave East
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

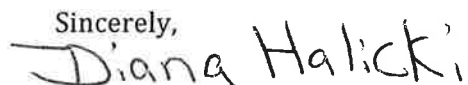
Hello. My name is Diana. I've been coming to Listening House since 1984. I don't come all the time, but I pop in occasionally when I need help. The staff are very nice and helpful and they care about me. If something happens to me, I know I have a support system. I don't feel lost or in the dark, I have someone with me to support me, be my friend, and be there for me. When I come here, I don't have to worry about what else is going on. It's a nice escape when I need it.

Julie and Brett [staff person and social worker at Listening House] have been in my life for a long time. They know me, they know my children, they know the things I've been through. They don't talk to me like I am a homeless person, they talk to me like a friend who is concerned for my wellbeing. The staff are my friends and many feel like family to me. Other places, they aren't as understanding. But they understand our situation here, they work with us and cooperate with us, and they don't make us feel inferior.

It's nice to be able to come here, have a place to sit, have a cup of coffee, eat a snack, chat with people you know. It feels good to be here. I believe you should keep this place open, because without it many people wouldn't know where to go. Sure, you can go to the library, but they can't help people with the services they can here. Or you just end up wandering the streets.

This new location is very convenient because it's so close to the Wellness Center. I've been going to the Wellness Center on Wednesdays at First Lutheran Church for twelve years. Here, you can easily go from Listening House to the Wellness Center on Wednesdays. If Listening House can't provide the resources you need here, the Wellness Center can help too. It's a very convenient location for all the people who use Listening House and the Wellness Center.

Please keep Listening House open for people like me.

Sincerely,


Diana Halicki

DH/map

November 6, 2017

Arthur "Roy" Meyers
976 Arcade St. Apt. 8
St. Paul MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear St. Paul City Council:

Hello, my name is Roy. I've been coming to Listening House for 15 years. I found out about Listening House from a friend. I've been to many of the Listening House's locations, but I like this location the best. It's convenient for me to come here from where I live and I like the location. The Listening House is now located in the church, First Lutheran Church, that I've attended for five years, so I already knew that this place was a good place to be. The people here are nice. I like the volunteers, the guests, and the staff. I come three times a week, usually, and I attend church here on Sundays and Wellness Center at the church on Wednesdays.

Listening House takes care of me. They helped me get a new picture ID card when I lost mine. I've gotten some clothes from here before, and they have good food and coffee here. I appreciate the services they offer here.

I have a lot of friends that come here, and I like to be able to talk to my friends here. Everyone I've met is nice, and many of them have become my friends. When I come here, it feels like a nice place to be. The people are nice, the chairs are comfortable. I have a safe and warm place to be with my friends. I have a place to live now, but I don't like to stay at home all day. I like to be out and on the go and I like to see people. Listening House is a good place to do that for me. Listening House feels like family to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Meyers". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Roy" being more prominent than the last name "Meyers".

Roy Meyers

RM/map

November 6, 2017

Mateo Alba-Mendoza
Higher Ground
235 5th Street West
Apt 309
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear St. Paul City Council.

Hola. My name is Mateo. I am 61 years old. I have been coming to Listening House for almost three years ever since I found out about it from a friend. The old location was too small, and there was a lot of trouble because of the location. Now, we are in a good location. There is more space.

I like to come to Listening House to relax. I don't have anywhere else to go sometimes. Here, I can come and drink a cup of coffee, visit with friends, get clothes if I need to. Sit in a comfy chair and be inside.

Places like this are important to people like me. It keeps me safe and off the streets. For older people like me, it is dangerous to be outside in the cold on the streets. If Listening House wasn't here, I would have to stay in downtown on the streets or in the skyways. Here, I have a warm place to be. Now that I have a room at Higher Ground, I could stay in my room watching TV all day, but that gets boring and lonely and sad. I like being around people who are nice and I can talk to and feel warm and welcome.

Listening House feels like home to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "mateo alba mendoza". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Mateo Alba-Mendoza

MAM/map

November 6, 2017

Ricky Island
Higher Ground
235 South 5th Street
Room 510
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear St. Paul City Council:

My name is Ricky. I have been coming to Listening House since April of 2016. I heard about it from a friend of mine. I've loved Listening House ever since I first came here. They run this place the right way. They treat everyone like family here. They help everyone they can. If I need a pair of pants or a pair of boots, they find some for me. I've never been turned down.

If I didn't have a place like this to come to, I'd either be at the library or be at a fast food place or on the streets. When I was still homeless, that's what I did.

When I get my job, Listening House has told me that they will help me get a bus pass and the clothing and equipment that I will need for that job. They care about me and want to help me be successful, like a real family does.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricky Island". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ricky Island

RI/map

November 6, 2017

Ashley Morris
Listening House
464 Maria Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear St. Paul City Council:

Hi, my name is Ashley. I've been coming to Listening House for three months. I found Listening House when I was having a hard time with a past relationship, and I needed a safe place to go to help me be on my own. Listening House told me that they could help me get appointments and housing and help me with things that I need. The staff at Listening House helped me get Medicaid and food stamps. With their help and the help of these services, I've become more independent.

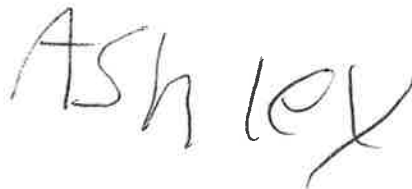
Other places I've been to, the people are terrible to be around. Here, the people are "chillax" and cool. I like how nice all the people are to each other, staff and guests. I feel safe and welcomed here. When I became homeless, Listening House became my home during the day.

If Listening House wasn't here, I might not have any support at all. It would be hard to find a place like this where the people are so nice and I don't think I'd be able to get the services I need on my own. I come here all the time because it is my home.

Sincerely,

Ashley Morris

AM/map

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ashley". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

November 7, 2017

Lamont Taylor
Listening House
464 Maria Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

Hello, my name is Lamont. I've been coming to Listening House since 2011. When I was homeless, I heard a lot of people talk about Listening House. They told me that it was a helpful, cheerful place to be. When I came here, it felt like the home I didn't have.

Over the years, Listening House has provided me with many resources. They've helped me find a job, given me clothes, food, a place that's warm and clean. More than that, the staff listen to me. They listen to my concerns, give me advice, listen to my problems. They really care about me and my wellbeing.

If Listening House wasn't here, I'd probably be doing things out on the streets that I know I shouldn't be doing. Listening House has helped me keep clean of drugs and alcohol. They helped me get treatment and encouraged me to stay sober. With their help, I've been sober for a year. Listening House staff encourages me and is invested in my success.

Listening House is important for people like me who don't always feel like we have a home with people who care about us and want to see us succeed. At Listening House, I know I have that.

Sincerely,



Lamont Taylor

LT/map

November 7, 2017

Hannah Brown
355 Maria Ave, Apt 6F
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council

Hello! My name is Hannah. I've been coming to Listening House for about twenty years. I walked into Listening House and enjoyed the people right away. I like this new location best because it is closer to where I live.

I enjoy the company at Listening House. Here, I get along with everyone. The staff at Listening House have helped me with a lot of things, like finding activities to participate in. If Listening House wasn't here, I'd probably stay at home most of the day. But I like coming here more. It's not as lonely and I like having something to do. I need Listening House to be open so I have somewhere to be.

Sincerely,

Hanna BROWN

Hannah Brown

HB/map

November 7, 2017

Kevin Roberts
Listening House
464 Maria Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

My name is Kevin. I've been coming to Listening House for over ten years. Listening House has always been a place to stay during the day to get warm, to clean up, or to get a snack. Listening House has been especially helpful in trying to find a job because I can use the phone and have voicemails left for me here. The staff at Listening House also helped me get a new ID card which I need for my job searching.

Listening House is very peaceful and restful. I like the people, the guests and the staff, and I like to come here to socialize and relax with the people I know.

If Listening House wasn't available, I'd be on the streets in the cold all day. The shelters don't let you stay there during the day so having a place to go during the day is as important as a place to be at night. I need a place like Listening House to keep going, keep my energy up so I can keep looking for work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Roberts

KR/map

November 9, 2017

Bruce Kallenbach
Listening House
464 Maria Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

My name is Bruce. I've been coming to Listening House about three times a week for the last five months. It's a really nice place to go, especially now with the cold weather. One time we came when it was pouring rain outside. We were wet and cold and they offered us hot coffee and dry new clothes. The people here are very nice, very friendly, both the staff and the guests. Decent people who help us and care about us.

They have a lot of activities going on to keep us occupied. Movies, card games I can play with my new friends I've met at Listening House. Lots of things to do. There are also services to help stay clean and healthy, like volunteers that wash our feet and give out clean socks. And there's always hot coffee and snacks to eat.

Before I found Listening House, I used to hang out at the library all day. It's nice there, but they don't have the services they have at Listening House. Please keep Listening House open for people like me.

Sincerely,



Bruce Kallenbach

BK/map

November 9, 2017

Sandy Watkins
Listening House
464 Maria Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

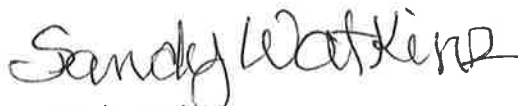
Hello, my name is Sandy. I've been coming to Listening House for over twenty years. I come here because my friends are here, old and new. I've met a lot of new friends through Listening House and the staff have become my friends, too. Meeting new people has become one of my favorite things about Listening House.

When I have a problem or I'm feeling depressed, I know I always have someone to talk to at Listening House. This is my home away from home. The people here have become my family.

I don't like being alone in my apartment all day. With Listening House here, I have somewhere to go to be with people I really care about. People to share a cup of coffee with and eat something sweet. Maybe play a game of cards or just talk. I don't feel alone when I'm at Listening House.

Please keep Listening House open for me.

Sincerely


Sandy Watkins

SW/map

November 9, 2017

Benson A. Porter
Listening House
464 Maria Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Saint Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: ZF 17-060-690 Listening House Appeal

Dear Saint Paul City Council:

Hello, my name is Benson. I've been coming to Listening House for about five months. It was recommended to me by a staff person at Dorothy Day. As soon as I came here, I knew they provided a great service to the homeless community. They helped me get a copy of my birth certificate, clothing, food, access to a phone. They do whatever they can to help the homeless community. They give us a place to come that's warm and clean and helps us plan our next steps to get off the streets.

If Listening House wasn't here, I wouldn't have the things I need to survive. It's a dark place to be when you don't have the support you need, especially as a homeless person. It can be depressing and dangerous for yourself and others. Listening House understands that, and they do what they can to make sure we have the support we need. I wish more understood that and supported Listening House's mission.

Sincerely,



Benson A. Porter

BAP/map