



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-228-8521

February 2, 2015

The Honorable
Kathy Lantry and Members of the City Council
320C City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council President Lantry and Members of the Council:

I am returning Resolution 15-254 to you without my signature, but with the understanding that you have communicated the sense of the Council on this matter and have left future action to me.

Among my concerns is the lack of public notice that preceded the Council action and the lack of clarity around how, specifically, the billboard should be used to "promote a vibrant, thriving and renewed East Side." So, in determining my course of action, I want to engage with the residents of the Payne Phalen community around a series of questions:

- Can we reach general agreement around reframing the structure to be less of a billboard and more of a canvass, representing an opportunity for East Side artists to reflect a positive message around education or economic development or other community values?
- Can we reach agreement around a process within which everyone can work together in a timely manner to agree on what should go on that canvass?
- How much will it cost and how will it be paid for?

If we can't reach a community consensus or the cost is too high, I reserve the right to have the structure removed. In the meantime, in order to be responsible stewards, I have asked my staff to have the board wrapped so that it conforms to our own maintenance standards.

I have not yet had the opportunity to assign staff to this task, but will let you know as soon as I do so you will know when to expect more information about the process going forward.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor