

From: tony thill <tonythill2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 9, 2024 3:19 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Subject: Re: [City of Saint Paul] Re: Dear City of St. Paul, I'm writing on behalf of myself and my neighbors to urge the city to take ownership and responsibility for the management, ...

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Councilmember Bowie,

Thank you for your consideration of this issue on behalf of my neighbors and me. We strongly believe that the city should assume responsibility for the upkeep and repair of alleys, which are city-owned yet maintained entirely at the residents' expense. This places an undue burden on us in several ways:

- **High Property Tax Burden:** St. Paul's property taxes are already among the highest in the state (44% higher than the state average), yet essential infrastructure like our alleys remains overlooked while city resources fund projects such as bike lanes, which primarily benefit non-residents.
- **Coordination Challenges:** Organizing alley repairs is complex, especially with varied reliance on alley access among neighbors, resulting in unequal contributions and often, delayed maintenance.
- **Significant Wear and Tear from City and Commercial Vehicles:** Heavy vehicles, including trash trucks, city vehicles, cause most of the damage to our alleys, yet the cost of upkeep falls solely on residents. (I understand damage all-in-all happens by all, but wanted to provide an example)
- **City-Imposed Material Restrictions:** The city's requirement to preserve "historic" brickwork drives up repair costs and prevents us from using more affordable materials like blacktop, which would reduce both repair frequency and expense.

Given these factors, we ask the city to take full responsibility for alley maintenance and repairs. This change would relieve a significant financial and logistical burden on residents and demonstrate that our tax contributions are meaningfully reinvested in infrastructure that serves residents directly.

Thank you again for considering our request. We welcome any guidance on how to effectively voice these concerns for meaningful change.

Sincerely,

Tony Thill
509 Holly Ave.
651.216.7841

On Fri, Nov 8, 2024 at 4:45 PM *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Tony,

I am looping in the office of Councilmember Anika Bowie, who represents you in Ward 1.

Thanks,

Greg Weiner

Executive Assistant – City Council

Saint Paul City Council

Greg.Weiner@ci.stpaul.mn.us

651-266-8512

He/him/his

From: tony thill <tonythill2@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 4:34 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_PublicWorks-Info <PublicWorks-Info@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_DSI-InformationAndComplaints <DSI-InformationAndComplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *Contact-HREEO <Contact-HREEO@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Re: [City of Saint Paul] Re: Dear City of St. Paul, I'm writing on behalf of myself and my neighbors to urge the city to take ownership and responsibility for the management, ...

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tonythill2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Kate, Thank you for the follow-up and for discussing this with the street maintenance supervisors. I wish the city understood the challenging place this puts residence in but I appreciate the suggestion to reach out to our councilmember.

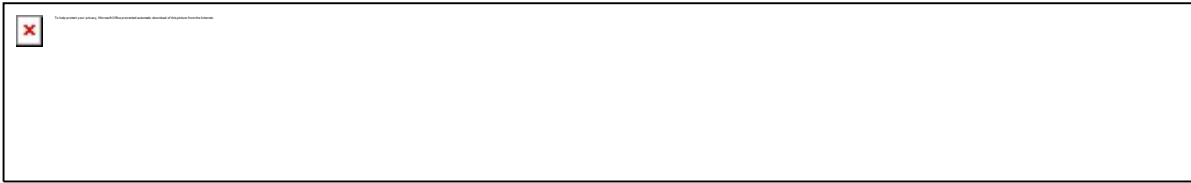
Could you please provide me with their name and contact information? I'd like to bring this issue to their attention and discuss potential solutions that could benefit both the city and residents. Thanks again for your guidance, and I look forward to any additional support you can provide.

Best regards,

Tony Thill

651.216.7841

On Fri, Nov 8, 2024 at 4:07 PM Kate Hurt (Public Works) <publicworksinfo@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:



Your request (807521) has been updated. To add additional comments, reply to this email.



Kate Hurt (City of Saint Paul)

Nov 8, 2024, 16:07 CST

Hello Tony,

Thank you for your message. We appreciate your response while we discussed the issue with our street maintenance supervisors.

Saint Paul will not be assuming the full financial responsibility for alley maintenance.

Due to the historic nature of this alley, our only maintenance option is to use asphalt patching, or milling, on the brick surface. Unfortunately, this is only a temporary fix and the city does not reconstruct alleys.

Our supervisors suggested contacting your councilmember and raising your concerns with them.

Thanks,

Kate

Saint Paul Public Works

651-266-6100



Tony Thill

Nov 3, 2024, 10:49 CST

Dear City of St. Paul,

I'm writing on behalf of myself and my neighbors to urge the city to take ownership and responsibility for the management, maintenance, and repair of our neighborhood alleys. As these alleys are city property and not owned by the residents, the current system places an unfair burden on us to coordinate and fund necessary repairs—an especially complex task, as some residents rely on alley access more heavily than others, making it nearly impossible

to divide costs equitably. This often results in delayed or neglected maintenance, causing safety concerns and deteriorating infrastructure over time.

Adding to the challenge, the city's mandate that we preserve the "historic" brickwork in our alleys significantly increases repair costs. Residents are prevented from using more affordable and durable materials, like blacktop, which would simplify and reduce the expense of upkeep.

Our concerns are amplified by St. Paul's exceptionally high property tax rates, which are approximately 44% above the state average, according to various sources including, SmartAsset.com. While these taxes fund improvements to amenities like bike lanes and recreational facilities, these projects often benefit non-residents who come to St. Paul, often increasing traffic, wear and tear on our roads, and demands on city resources. Meanwhile, the core infrastructure needs of tax-paying residents, such as safe and well-maintained alleys, are overlooked.

We respectfully request that the city assume full responsibility for alley maintenance and repair. Taking ownership of these spaces would allow for streamlined management, consistent safety standards, and reduced financial strain on residents. This shift would show a clear commitment to addressing the needs of those who contribute significantly to the city's revenue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to a constructive path forward.

Sincerely,

Tony Thill

651.216.7841

509 Holly Ave. St. Paul, MN 55102

This email is a service from City of Saint Paul.

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Tony Thill
651.216.7841