



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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October 28, 2015

Council President Russ Stark and
Members of the City Council
310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council President Stark and Members of the Council:

I am vetoing RI# SAO 15-59, returning it to the Council and recommending your re-consideration.

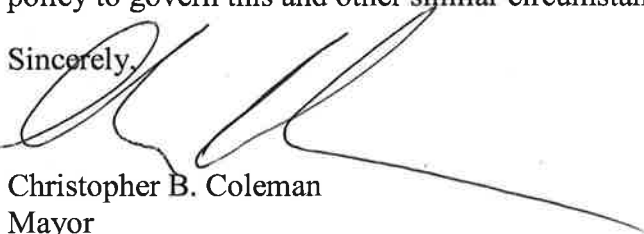
The City, in Chapter 45 of the Legislative Code, clearly defines graffiti as:

(6) *Graffiti*. Any initials, marks, symbols, designs, inscriptions or other drawings, scratched, painted, inscribed or otherwise affixed upon any structure without the permission of the owner.

It further categorizes graffiti as a nuisance and establishes that it is the responsibility of the Department of Safety and Inspections to make sure that it is removed.

I acknowledge that our community norms and values with respect to the line between graffiti and art change over time and this may reflect one of those changes. But we have a process for codifying new community standards. I, therefore, recommend that the Council adopt the Hearing Officer's original recommendation that this installation (whatever we choose to call it) on the sidewalk be allowed to remain through the winter and be re-referred to the Legislative Hearing on March 8, 2016 at which time the Department of Public Works will have proposed a policy to govern this and other similar circumstances.

Sincerely,


Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor

cc: Shari Moore, City Clerk
Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Ricardo Cervantes, Director of Safety and Inspections