



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

December 1, 2017

Chris Tolbert
Ward 3 - St. Paul City Council Member
310-C City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Chris Tolbert, St. Paul City Council Member of Ward 3:

As a resident of St. Paul and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociate of the St. Paul Province, I am concerned by the restriction placed on Listening House to ONLY serve twenty (20) people experiencing homelessness per day by the City's Planning Commission. I believe that Listening House service to those most in need in our St. Paul Community in First Lutheran Church basement is consistent with the mission of places of worship of every faith.

Furthermore, I believe this is a rather arbitrary limitation of their use permit at their new site in the Swede Hollow Neighborhood which does not seem to appropriately respond to the surge in need of people experiencing homelessness. The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported on Oct. 28th that there is a 22% surge in homelessness in Ramsey County this year. We know that the issue of homelessness is a community problem which neighborhoods, faith communities, the City of St. Paul, and public service agencies must all work together to address. The Planning Commission's limitation would force Listen House to turn away guests each day which would seem to only increase problems in the Swede Hollow community for those turned away and denied access.

I hope that you, Council President Stark and the members of the City Council, will work for a long-term and peaceful resolution to the Determination for Similar Use (DSU) for Listening House of St. Paul while also boldly meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our city. I ask you to please remove the limitations placed on Listening House to serve only 20 homeless guests per day at the Dec. 6th City Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Peggy O'Leary, CSJ
I am a firm believer in Listening House.



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November 29, 2017

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Sincerely,

SUSAN OEFFLING, CSJ
525 FAIRVIEW AVE. SO. #136
ST. PAUL, MN. 55116

*I am on the Board of Peace
Houses Community, a gathering
place in Minneapolis for people
who are homeless. My experience
tells me that to limit to 20 the
number of people at Listening
House would be a great dis-
service to those who have no
shelter. They seek welcome
and respect not exclusion.*



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Sincerely,

Margaret Belanger CSJ

MARGARET BELANGER CSJ

525 FAIRVIEW AVE S,

ST. PAUL, MN 55116

#223

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Sincerely,

Therese Sherlach, CSJ
1884 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul MN 55105

I hope you do not restrict the number of people at Listening House to 20. My experience at St. Stephen's Shelter in Minneapolis tells me a well-run center can handle more than that without disrupting the neighborhood. Thanks you



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Sincerely,

Sister Ansgar Holmberg, C.S.J.
525 Fairview Ave. S, #139 ST. Paul 55116

*These women and men are among our
most vulnerable citizens. How can we
turn even one away.
Thank you for your service
to our city. SA*



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Sincerely, *Sister Ann Leach, CSJ Carondelet Village #481*

*Since the old Dorothy Day Center is gone,
the homeless people need a place to go.
Please do not limit Listening House
to twenty people.*

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Sincerely, *Twenty is a feeble response!*

Nancy Davis, CST
525 S. Fairview Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116



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Sincerely,

Kathleen G. Holmberg C.S.J.

*525 Fairview Ave So.
Apt 121*

55116

I was a volunteer at Listening House for several winters. It was the only place people who were at the end of their resources could go. They, for the most part, were people who could not work because of disabilities - some veterans, old school teachers. I never witnessed violence or meanness. People were grateful, tired, cold, wet, no light at the end of the tunnel. I learned much from them - not facts, but acceptance. Which persons would you tell - "There's no room in the Inn?"



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Sincerely,

Carol Pollasek, LST

*I hope we can count on
your support for so many people
needing your help.*