

“Hi. My name is Sky. I live in Highland Park in Saint Paul. And I am calling to provide testimony on the matter of the new protest prohibited items ordinance amendment that’s being proposed. I’m calling in objection of that because I think that all that the amendment does it outline further restrictions to put on protestors who are currently suffering at the hands of the police and their brutality against protestors and many of the items on that list are simply used for self-defense and protective gear against the abuses and all the resources the police have and do use on protesters, including shields and protective helmets. Things like pepper spray that people are allowed to carry on them all the time when they’re walking the street, when they are walking to and from protests by themselves—that’s just a basic safety measure—and to restrict these items from being carried by nonviolent protestors, which is the majority of protestors, is to put them in a vulnerable position just to either have them be abused by the police or other people, agitators, or white supremacists. And I am asking you to shut down this amendment and instead focus your energy on prohibiting the actions police are allowed to have because they meet protests with guns with less than lethal rounds, which can still kill somebody, with pepper spray, with tear gas, with batons, like sticks, everything, and yet this amendment is only serving to like empower their abuse even more and give them more authority over bodies that are standing up for civil rights and only exercising their first amendment. So, I’m calling to ask you to shut this down and please vote not to pass it and instead focus energy onto the police. I know the City Council doesn’t have a ton of authority over the police—that’s more of the Mayor and Governor’s role-- but the least you can do it not inhibit protestors from the right to nonviolently assemble and to protect themselves from police brutality, which is the thing that they’re out there to protest in the first place.”

From: "Thiel Skyla" <+17636149296>

Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:53 AM

To: CouncilHearing_English (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing_English@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 42 seconds)