

## Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Alan Hupp <awhupp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** Natalie Singer  
**Cc:** \*CI-StPaul\_LegislativeHearings; Zola Pineles  
**Subject:** Re: 1619 University Ave / Item #94 Tomorrow's Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it concerns, as the owner of 1622 Sherburne, a property near the troubled site, I have contacted St Paul police to complain about this issue. Specifically I have spoken with John Molde an enforcement officer with SPPD about this "club" nuisance as well as the abandoned cars and other issues with the parking lot adjacent to the property. It appears little has been done so I/we appreciate your attention to this matter that is negatively impacting the quality of life in St Paul's neighborhoods.

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Alan Hupp  
952-334-2250

On Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 12:44 PM Natalie Singer <[natalie.k.singer@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.k.singer@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi, Mai --

I've CC'd my neighbor, Zola Pineles, as well as our landlord, Alan Hupp. Between the three of us, we have tried to talk to these club members at 1619 University, called in noise complaints, and filed DSI complaints for the better part of the last year -- we're all interested in staying informed in this process.

I'm particularly dismayed to read the meeting minutes from last week's hearing, and the police report where the hours are listed as between noon and 6-8 PM, which has been absolutely untrue. As residents of the home directly behind the club, Zola and I, and our partners, have experienced first-hand all of the loud traffic, screaming, and music, almost every Friday and Saturday night and sometimes weeknights between 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. Whether or not the occupants are the same as they were in November frankly does not make a difference to me, because their actions in the parking lots and alley have been unchanged. Since the building was ordered to stay unoccupied, we have had the most peace we have had since last July.

I still believe, as I wrote in November, that an incubator space for a small business at 1619 University is a lovely idea. If the social club operated between noon and 6-8 PM, I would have zero issues with it. Sounds great!

I do have serious, serious issues with what I can only assume is the club's lack of ability to manage its members' behaviors -- but what feels more like a complete and utter disregard for its neighbors. We're tired.

Below is the email chain that I sent in November. I believe Zola also sent an email in November.

Thank you for listening today, and for your help in involving us in this process.

Best,  
Natalie

Natalie Singer

715 864 5007

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Natalie Singer** <[natalie.k.singer@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.k.singer@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Re: 1619 University Ave / Item #94 Tomorrow's Council Meeting

To: Swanson, Stacy (CI-StPaul) <[stacy.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:stacy.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

Thank you, Stacy! I realized later that I mixed up the dates for the meeting, but I'm looking forward to it regardless.

On Nov 13, 2020, at 8:34 AM, Swanson, Stacy (CI-StPaul) <[stacy.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:stacy.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Hi Natalie,

I will share your email with the legislative hearing officer.

Thank you,

**Stacy Swanson**

**Executive Assistant to**

**Councilmember Mitra Jalali**

Office of City Council – Ward 4

15 W Kellogg Blvd. Suite 310D

**Office:** 651-266-8640

**Direct:** 651-266-8643

[Stacy.Swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Stacy.Swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

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**From:** Natalie Singer <[natalie.k.singer@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.k.singer@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:25 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Swanson, Stacy (CI-StPaul) <[stacy.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:stacy.swanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; [zolapineles@gmail.com](mailto:zolapineles@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** 1619 University Ave / Item #94 Tomorrow's Council Meeting

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

Hello,

It was just brought to my attention through the Hamline Midway Coalition, that there's an item on the docket at tomorrow's Council meeting for a variance for Alan Bell at 1619 University Ave. I apologize for the short notice.

I understand that Bell's business is applying as a Small Business Incubator — which is an awesome thing, and I think that small business incubators can be incredibly powerful engines of change, empowerment, and entrepreneurialism. Having a small business incubator at 1619 University could be a great asset to that block, and the neighborhood broadly.

I do want to mention, however, that the small business that's currently occupying the space hasn't been a great neighbor. I rent the bottom of the duplex directly behind 1619. Since July, nearly every weekend, there have been huge amounts of people in the parking lot directly behind 1619 and next to On's, and in the parking lot next to us (entry on Sherburne).

The business seems to be a hookah lounge, called the Living Room Social Club, and they advertise as a private club where you need to be a member in order to get a reservation. The customers, or members, sometimes close to 50 in number, none wearing masks, leave the club between 2:30 and 4:00 a.m., and instead of actually leaving, just hang out in the parking lots, talking, screaming, and with their car doors and windows open with stereos blasting.

We (my husband and my upstairs neighbors) have been very reluctant to call the police for a noise complaint, and have gone outside many, many weekends, to just ask if people could please lower their volumes. We have been largely ignored.

It is a marked difference from the way that the Turf Club used to operate, where the large crowds that exited did so around midnight, and dispersed promptly and without a lot of noise.

I would just like to bring it to the attention of the City Council that it might be useful to consider how small businesses — and “private clubs” — that are using the incubator space are being held accountable to the same standards that other businesses in the neighborhood are.

Thank you,

Natalie Singer

715.864.5007