

April 3, 2010

Dear City Council:

I reside in the Griggs/Scheffer area of Saint Paul. I recently put my house on the market because I am retired and the property taxes are so high that I can no longer afford to live here. I accepted an offer on my house on March 11, 2020. On March 20, I received the letter from the City Council indicating that the estimated assessment on my property for the street project is \$5616.00.

I am required by purchase agreement to disclose the assessment to the buyer, and I would have anyway. But because of the pandemic, I have no leverage to negotiate the sale. As a result, I will have to pay the assessment prior to closing on the house and I will not have the option to spread this astronomical amount over a period of time. I will be required to write a check prior to closing on May 8 and I will never benefit from the improvements.

I cannot even begin to describe how traumatic it has been to receive this letter amidst the worst pandemic in the country's history. Now, not only do I have to worry about how I am going to pack while I'm trying to care for my grandchildren because their parents are working at home, and how to get my furniture moved and how to find a rental without being exposed to the virus, I worry about dwindling finances as a result of an elective project that I will never see completed.

Again, I am retired, but many on my street are not and they have been laid off of work or their work has been closed. My concern is that it is just too much for people to deal with right now. It is too expensive and disruptive.

Thank you,

Jan Johnson
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