

To whom it may concern

My name is Anthony Mahmood.

My family has owned and operated Aesop's Table a deli and catering company for over 31 years in St Paul. We have been in our present location at 919 Dale St N. for 21 years.

I have watched our property taxes go up over 50% in those years .

We also get charged a right of way maintenance fee of \$420 per year and another \$176 per year for storm water fees. These might not seem like a lot to you but when you add in all the things the state taxes our business for and then the federal government and then there is unemployment insurance, workmen's comp insurance, commercial business insurance and commercial insurance on our work vehicles it really adds up.

Then you have the city threatening to ban the use of Styrofoam which will raise the cost of doing business by a minimum of 1/3 and if that's not bad enough you're talking about raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour which means a fifteen year old doing dishes that can only work a few hour a week will be making a couple of bucks less than an employee of fifteen years.

You say to me HEY THAT'S THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS and I would say yes it is.

And I would say to you the same thing.

You say it costs \$2,618,476.00 to have police respond to false alarms. I call B.S. on that figure. The police are already on patrol and you are already paying them.

You may want to use the argument that they are taken away from fighting real crimes

I say to that B.S.

Alarms are set as a P3 which means they are on a low priority so if a crime is going on they don't go to the alarm call until they have time or if they are in route to an alarm and something comes up they can break away and respond to that. So when you say it costs over 2 million for false alarms besides saying B.S. I say to you

THAT'S THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS.

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