

December 4, 2017

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

RECEIVED
DEC 07 2017
COUNCILMEMBER
CHRIS TOLBERT

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

As a resident of St. Paul, 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,



Steve Cohen

1496 Midway Place, St. Paul

December 1, 2017

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Sincerely,

Lisa Murphy
1496 Midway Pkwy
St. Paul, 55108

*People most in need
in our city need the
help Listening House
provides. Please don't
limit their work.*



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

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Sincerely,

Sister Florence Steichen CSS (Ward 3 - your constituent)

*Please support Listening House
and allow it to continue to welcome
people — more than 20 per day. I think you
know the valuable services it provides:
a place of warmth, safety, information, companionship.
Above all a place to be heard.*

Thank you for your attention to this request.

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Sincerely,

Barbara McGowan

Please remove the restriction and do all that you can to support the work of Listening House and First Lutheran Church.

Thank you!



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Sincerely,

Mary Calder, CSJ



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Sincerely,

Marcella Anne Bobb
(Sister George Anne Bobb)

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Sincerely,

Andrea Fegan Tande, CSJ Consociate
1884 Randolph Ave

The card games I played with folks experiencing homelessness at Listening House were some of the most potent lessons I have learned about the complexities of housing + homelessness. Our fellow St. Paul citizens need your help!



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Sincerely,

Jan Walen, OST - currently living in Ward 3,
I trust that you will find a way to accommodate
First Lutheran Church's faith response to the needs
of homeless peoples. And if, overtime, problems do develop
they can be worked out with good-willed people striving
for the common good. (over →

Being homeless in our Minnesota winters
can be a matter of life and death. A person
who is homeless should not have to
"die and go to heaven" in order to experience
mercy and happiness. This holds true for
homeless people and for people not yet
homeless, living in the Swede Hollow community
environs and throughout our civic community
in St. Paul. We are all in this together.
And we look to your December 6th City
Council Meeting for a sign that City Council
members are disposed to work for long term
positive outcomes, and see fit to remove
the limitations on Listening House
to serve only 20 guests a day.

Thank you for your consideration.

I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Jon Dalsin, CST

1440 Randolph Ave, #102

St. Paul, MN 55105