

From: [Kim O'Brien](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [#CI-StPaul Ward5](#); [Carter, Melvin \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: RE: The Lamplighter Lounge , 160 W Larpenteur
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 5:32:05 PM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[LamplighterLoungeTestimonial-Thai Street Market.pdf](#)
[RPD Responses Associated with The Lamplighter Lounge.pdf](#)
[160 W Larpenteur calls.pdf](#)
[Maplewood Police Activity Relating to The Lamplighter Lounge in St. Paul.pdf](#)
[Letter to St Paul City Council RE The Lamplighter Lounge.pdf](#)
[RLAnnualReport 2020 Web.pdf](#)

March 22, 2021

TO: Saint Paul City Council
CC: Mayor Carter
FROM: Rice & Larpenteur Alliance
RE: The Lamplighter Lounge, 160 Larpenteur Ave. W.
Public Hearing on March 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Dear Esteemed Members of the St Paul City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity for the public to speak on issues related to The Lamplighter Lounge, located at the intersection of Rice Street and Larpenteur Ave. The establishment has created unsafe conditions for neighboring residents and businesses and is a detriment to our community's effort to create a safe, inviting and welcoming neighborhood. We call on the City of St Paul to finally act to hold The Lamplighter Lounge accountable and assure the safety and livability of our community.

The [Rice & Larpenteur Alliance](#) was originally formed by the cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Roseville, and Ramsey County to bring to life a hopeful vision for the neighborhood we share. We have expanded to a nearly 50-member Community-Based Advisory Board including community residents, local businesses, nonprofits, and municipal partners.

Our [Vision Plan](#) is largely focused on public and private infrastructure investments and community-building, but recent examples of violent crime and testimonials from local business owners and residents, remind us that community economic development and neighborhood safety are interdependent.

The Rice & Larpenteur area is not just a commercial node, it is a densely populated and diverse residential neighborhood with many young families and children. All of our neighbors, including employees at local businesses and residents, deserve to feel safe. Sadly, violent incidents related to The Lamplighter Lounge undermine community efforts to build a more vibrant, healthy future.

Nia Black's death in June of 2020 was devastating. Nia was a 23-year-old cosmetologist, budding entrepreneur, daughter, sister, and friend. Our community grieves with Nia's family. It seems incomprehensible that despite a long history of issues and excessive consumption of police services at The Lamplighter, no additional conditions have ever been added to their license. Cell phone videos of fighting that led up to Nia's murder revealed large groups gathered outside of the business fighting and shouting for extensive periods of time, with no efforts by the staff or security to intervene. An intervention could have saved Nia's life.

Shortly after Nia's murder, we joined Nia's family and friends for Mother's Against Community Gun Violence's Peace Walk to honor Nia and call for an end to community gun violence and accountability for The Lamplighter. When we arrived outside of the business, residents from the

local apartment buildings started coming out and sharing their own experiences of nightly fights, excessive noise, shots fired, public drunkenness, and more. One family sitting on their balcony overlooking the parking lot where Nia was shot shouted “Shut It Down!”. Another pointed out the spot on the side of the apartment building a stray bullet hit. To allow The Lamplighter Lounge to continue business as usual would be to neglect the City’s responsibility to protect and defend public safety.

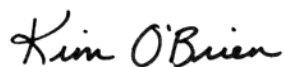
In 2017 a [father of five](#) was murdered outside of the Lamplighter. In 2019 a [woman was shot](#) in the back outside of The Lamplighter and is suffering life-long injuries. In 2020, [Nia was murdered](#). We must do something now before another life is lost and many lives are forever changed.

The Stargate Nightclub on the Maplewood side of Rice & Larpenteur was closed in 2017 after a series of infractions and one terrifying shootout in the parking lot. Closing Stargate has positively impacted our community in many ways. Now the space is home to a full-service Nepali Grocery Store and Restaurant. A similar positive outcome can happen at 160 Larpenteur Ave. W.

In addition to multiple homicides related to this business, and almost daily nuisances for surrounding community members, the business consumes an excessive amount of police services not just for St Paul but also for Roseville and Maplewood public safety departments. Attached, please find incident reports from all three public safety agencies on incidents they have responded to over the past few years.

Our community is committed to and invested in a brighter future for Rice & Larpenteur, but without proper safety regulations and accountability for this business, we will face continual set-backs in our efforts. We ask that the City of Saint Paul hold The Lamplighter Lounge accountable for the safety of its staff, customers, and neighbors.

Sincerely,



Kim O'Brien
Executive Director
Rice & Larpenteur Alliance
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651-276-4696 (C)

Attachments:

- Letter to St Paul City Council RE: The Lamplighter Lounge
- 160 W Larpenteur Calls (from St Paul Police)
- Roseville Police Department Responses Associated with The Lamplighter Lounge
- Maplewood Police Activity Relating to The Lamplighter Lounge in St Paul
- Lamplighter Lounge Testimonial – Thai Street Market
- Rice & Larpenteur Alliance 2020 Annual Report (for background)

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