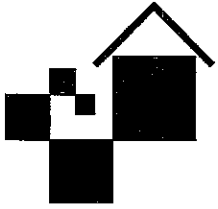


#81



**CommonBond**  
COMMUNITIES

1080 Montreal Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55116  
651-291-1750  
commonbond.org

Madame President and Members of the Council,

We are here to represent CommonBond Communities, specifically the residents of Torre de San Miguel Homes.

CommonBond provides affordable housing with supportive services to residents, including providing youth and teen programs. CommonBond is committed to creating safe, stable homes for all residents.

Torre de San Miguel houses more than 500 residents, over 300 of which are children 0 to 18 years old.

Our residents have shared concerns with us regarding the safety and protection of families and other community members.

The children are afraid to walk home after program. Some youth are not allowed to participate in programs because their parents are fearful of them walking home in close proximity to the bar.

Additionally, multiple schools, including Head Start, and Metro Transit utilize stops within a matter of feet from the bar. A resident has recently expressed to staff their safety concerns about utilizing the stop nearest the bar, due to the multiple gun-related incidents.

Finally, Isabel Street is constantly congested and occasionally blocked altogether by vehicles and patrons. Residents and staff have expressed frustration in their inability to drive through the street to reach their home and workplace.

Thank you for your time,

CommonBond Communities  
Torre de San Miguel Homes

February 5, 2018

St. Paul City Councilmember Thao  
St. Paul City Councilmember Noecker  
St. Paul City Councilmember Tolbert  
St. Paul City Councilmember Stark  
St. Paul City Councilmember Brendmoen  
St. Paul City Councilmember Bostrom  
St. Paul City Councilmember Prince

Hello, my name is Jessica Lakis. I live at 72 Isabel Street, my family and I (my son will be 2 in March) have been there now for about three and a half years. Ever since we have moved into the neighborhood our house has been hit by stray bullets. Four bullets from three separate occasions.

On the first occasion it went thru our dining room window and thru the interior wall to be stopped by our fridge. If we were home eating dinner one of us would've been shot in the head.

Second time it went thru our porch window and got stuck in our wall leading to the entry way. If it would have gone thru it could've potentially hit my husband on the couch.

The third time two bullets when thru the side of our house one getting stuck in our stairs and the other going through an interior wall into the living room and landing on the floor.

Luckily no one was hurt or killed, but if and when this happens again, I don't just want to hope we're that lucky again. Moving is not an option for us at this time and will not eliminate the crime on our block.

Items 81



**Neighborhood House™**

February 6, 2018

- St. Paul City Councilmember Thao
- St. Paul City Councilmember Noecker
- St. Paul City Councilmember Tolbert
- St. Paul City Councilmember Stark
- St. Paul City Councilmember Brendmoen
- St. Paul City Councilmember Bostrom
- St. Paul City Councilmember Prince

RE: Action needed to address safety concerns on the West Side

Dear Councilmembers,

Neighborhood House has been serving the West Side community for 120 years; helping individuals and families gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to thrive in diverse communities. Community safety is core to our work. Often Neighborhood House is where families turn to find a safe place to bring their children, to learn and to get help.

Neighborhood House is based at the Paul and Shelia Wellstone Center for Community Building, a facility we share with the City's El Rio Vista Recreation Center. Surrounding us is Parque Castillo, the newly renovated Gilbert de la O Fields, Saint Paul Public Housing Dunedin complex and Common Bond's Torre de San Miguel complex. Our neighbors and partners on the West Side are working to create a safe and vital community. A place where children can play and grow. A place where families can build safe and rewarding lives. The public and private investment in this community over the past decade demonstrates the commitment to creating a safe thriving neighborhood.

Unfortunately over the past year, all that work has been threatened. Gun violence, fighting, and criminal behavior has continued to be present just blocks from all of our doors at the El Alamo Bar. Neighboring houses have been hit with bullets. The safety of neighborhood bus stops is in question. Despite a variety of efforts to curtail it, the violence and behavior continue. We need your help to keep the West Side safe for our families. We ask the Council to take action to stop this behavior and its negative and dangerous effect on our community.

We ask you help in keeping the West Side a community of committed, united citizens seeking to create an environment where all of its residents and visitors can thrive.

Sincerely,

Nancy Q. Brady  
President