

From: [IVORY TAYLOR](#)
To: [CouncilHearing_English \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (2 minutes and 42 seconds)
Date: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 2:28:32 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

Hi, my name is Ivory Taylor. I'm a former Saint Paul renter and current coalition organizer with the Alliance for Metro Metropolitan Stability, a coalition of community based organizations and advocacy groups building a shared power and working together to advance strategic campaigns for racial, economic and environmental justice. I currently live in Roseville. I'm testifying today to express my support of Saint Paul 's current Rent Stabilization Ordinance as voted on overwhelmingly by Saint Paul residents in November. This ordinance was a community developed solution to issues experienced by renters who are predominantly from low wealth, disabled and or communities of color. So ordinance as voted on is one of the many tools in the toolbox we have to keep it. Keep Saint Paul home for everyone to make sure our neighbors stay in their communities. Children can stay in their schools and workers can remain close to work. It works best when paired with additional renter protections like just cause ordinances and accessible housing, inclusionary zoning and without carve outs for predatory landlords. With the new work group recommendations, we asked the City Council to consider them in a way that honors the policy Saint Paul voters passed last November. In particular, it is vital that we have universal application of the policy and do not create a new construction exemption. A new construction exemption is incredibly problematic because it creates a disparate impact for disabled renters in Saint Paul as a member of the state of Minnesota 's Affordable, Safe and accessible Housing Work Group. I know that these are extremely limited options for disabled renters to find units is accessibility features. These features are predominantly found in new construction due to the passage and enforcement of a law in the past decades, disabled renters, many of whom are living on fixed or limited incomes, face cost, burden, housing and new construction properties already in order to access buildings with accessibility features. Exempting new construction from rent stabilization in these properties further limits already extremely limited options for disabled and senior renters in Saint Paul with accessibility needs as they lose access to stable rent. Equally important, government subsidized affordable housing must not be exempt from rent stabilization because the people who live in mytech buildings or affordable housing are most likely to be low wealth disabled, senior and renters of color. These folks need renter protections the most, exempting those buildings would mean actively putting communities at risk of economic displacement and furthering the inequities in our housing system. Large affordable housing providers are already trying to skirt Saint Paul 's rent stabilization policy to push rents higher, and they've already issued even more egregious rent hikes across the metro areas that lack rent stabilization. Saint Paul cannot leave ranchers of subsidized and accessible housing in the dust when it comes to tenant protections. I ask that you please consider amending, not amending, the policy so that disabled senior communities of colors are facing more housing in our system. Thank you for your time.

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