

Burger, Kathryn (CI-StPaul)

From: Nelson Fox <nelsonfox3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Assessments (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Resolution to authorize the 2020 St. Paul Streets Project

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident living at 1270 Juno Avenue. I received a notice that should this plan go through, I will be given a bill for potentially \$5,616 for the paving and lighting of the street in front of my property.

COMMENT:

I am deeply disappointed by this news. My wife and I moved to this area just two years ago, buying our first house which had the lowest property value in the area because we couldn't afford better but needed somewhere safe for our first child who will be born this August.

Each year, our property taxes have gone up an inordinate amount, while basic infrastructure continued to crumble. I kept reassuring my wife that certainly at some point these rising taxes would come back around to benefiting our neighborhood.

Now that I've seen that this is how the city of St. Paul intends to handle their infrastructure, by forcing residents to have to pay more than quadruple their monthly mortgage for a public road in a city where we already pay exorbitant property taxes, we are considering moving as soon as possible.

My wife is a resident psychiatrist here, who provides much needed mental health services to the community, and I work for the Grand Avenue Business Association helping local businesses stay prosperous during these troubling times. By hitting us with bill, it will be just enough to push us out of this community, the same community that will now lose our skillset.

I am sure we are not the only ones who will react this way. Every month, I hear more and more people moving to Mendota Heights just to avoid these kinds of governmental practices that St. Paul is becoming notorious for.

QUESTION:

How can the city justify levying this cost on homeowners who have been languishing under ever-increasing property taxes, many of whom have lost their jobs or had pay cuts (such as my family) due to the COVID-19 crisis? Please consider the fact that it was also the city government mandates that make it legally impossible for us to maintain our jobs.

Concerned,

Nelson Fox