

St. Paul City Council
c/o Amy Brendmoen, City Council President
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

To the City Council of Saint Paul:

I oppose the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion charter School (TCGIS), and specifically the demolition of the former St. Andrew's church, a historically significant building in the Warrendale neighborhood of St. Paul that contributes to the architectural richness and charm of our city. If demolished, embodied energy calculators shared by HPC estimate it will send over 2,000 tons to the landfill and have a huge impact on the neighborhood.

Many of us are opposed to the required variances—including one of the largest parking variances ever requested—but the school has a PR firm lobbying the city council on their behalf. There have also been some related irregularities at the Planning Commission recently that caught the attention of the city attorney's office.

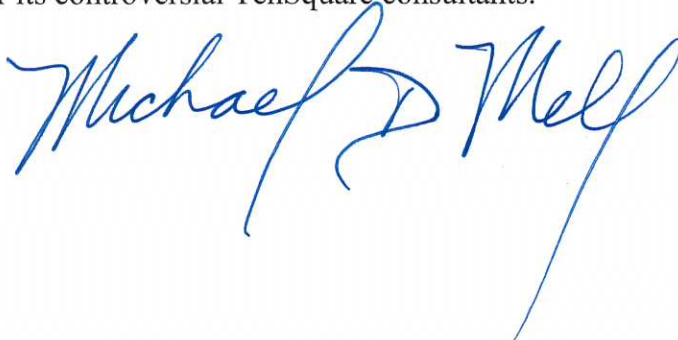
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It's worth reading the article (<https://progressive.org/magazine>) "*The Charter School Next Door, What Happens When Public Education Becomes a Marketplace?*" that discusses the negative impacts public charters have on neighborhoods and traditional public schools. It's worth noting that in Minnesota, public charter schools are exempt from anti-segregation laws.

TCGIS' plan creates safety and traffic issues, adversely changes the character of the neighborhood, doesn't promote diversity (the school is 87% white vs. 29% for neighborhood schools), is opposed by the St. Paul Federation of Educators and NAACP, and—out of lack of empathy—destroys the symbolic heart of Warrendale, the former St. Andrew's church. Designed in 1927 by St. Paul's first city architect, author of St. Paul's first building code, and noted progressive, Charles A. Hausler. The neighborhood is small, so their plan to destroy the historic St. Andrew's church would have an outsized affect. This does not align with Mayor Carter's initiatives of inclusivity and equity.

We hope our elected officials will take seriously the commitment to equity that's at the forefront of Mayor Carter's initiative to reduce citywide disparities—and not bow to pressure exerted by TCGIS or its controversial TenSquare consultants.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Melf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

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Signed: *Joyce A. DuFrane (Catholic)*
I grew up in the neighborhood.
Please save.

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Signed:

Margaret M Willis
1030 Tapping Street
St. Paul MN 55103

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Signed: *Lilita Allen*


I live a block away from the school at this time of year, which is 1/2 of the school year. We have a hard time leaving our street due to people from school parking! Thank-you

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Signed:



Also - TCGIS is in their
3rd (4th?) space - what
will stop them from destroying
this neighborhood and moving again??

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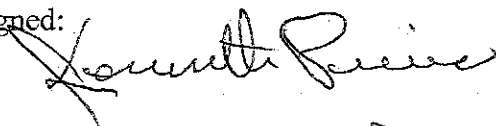
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Signed:



KENNETH PIERRE
894 W. HOYT AVE.
ST. PAUL, MN
55117

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c/o Amy Brendmoen, City Council President
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102


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- Saint Paul's comprehensive plan states that the greenest building is the one left standing. In Saint Paul, there are examples of former churches reused for performance spaces, homes, and a charter school. If demolished, embodied energy calculators shared by HPC estimate it will send over 2,000 tons to the landfill and have a huge impact on the neighborhood. Demolition is not consistent with Mayor Carter's initiative to be carbon-neutral by 2050.
- According to the National Historic Preservation Act, "A place's owner, a preservation organization, or a member of the community who values the resource usually initiates the application for historic designation"—that's the law.
- In the AIA Guide to Twin Cities Architecture, retired Pioneer Press writer Larry Millet called out St Andrew's as one of the best local examples of period revival churches in Saint Paul.
- It's worth reading the article (<https://progressive.org/magazine>) "*The Charter School Next Door, What Happens When Public Education Becomes a Market place?*" that discusses the negative impacts charter schools have on neighborhoods and traditional public schools nationwide. Minnesota is the only state that allows charter schools to be exempt from anti-segregation laws.
- The St. Paul Chapter of NAACP and St. Paul Federation of Educators agree object to the expansion of a charter school that is nearly 90% white and far more affluent than other St. Paul schools. The TCGIS expansion plan does not align with Mayor Carter's initiative to combat inequity.

St. Andrew's is irreplaceable.

Signed:


Gina Cassetta

1165 Stryker
WSP, MN
55118

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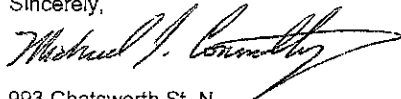
Signed:

Robert Sautetberg
1732 No. Saint Albans
Reseville, Mn, 55113

Dear St. Paul City Council member Amy Brendmoen,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming vote on the variances and site plan for the Twin Cities German Emersion School. As you know this has been a long and controversial project and I want to emphasize that your decision on this matter will no doubt greatly impact the neighborhood and the history of St. Paul. I urge you to vote to deny the variances and site plan for the expansion of the charter school. All parties involved together need to explore all alternatives to demolition before an important decision of this magnitude is made regarding the neighborhood and the historical former St. Andrew's church building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Connelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

993 Chatsworth St. N

St. Paul MN 55103

February 26, 2019

Saint Paul City Council Members

RE: The Building formerly known as St. Andrew's Catholic Church

I'm writing this letter to all of you in the hopes that you will use your influence to see this building remains intact. I understand that the current owners have the legal right to do what they wish with the property, however, this building is an icon in our park, Como Park the Crown Jewel, of this city.

I have a personal tie to what once was St. Andrew's Church. I'm Hungarian from my mother's side of the family. St. Andrew's Church was the parish of the Hungarian Community. I gave a picture that my mother gave to me of the large Hungarian community on the steps of church which included my grandmother and many of my family members to SHSA. My beloved mother was baptized, made all her sacraments in the church and went to the Catholic school there. I have been to countless Hungarian, weddings, funerals and other Catholic religious ceremonies in the building.

The destruction of this historic build will serve no purpose. This demolition is not green, nor sustainable and the greenest building is the one already built. Thousands of pounds would be going to the land fill.

Please see fit to keep this building intact for the historical properties it holds. If it is in your power to allow a motion to hold off any decision until the historical societies which currently investigating the building can certify it is too important to destroy.

Thank You,



Mrs. Victoria Kane

1299 Dale Street North

St. Paul MN 55117

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Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria J. Kame". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Brendmoen, Chairperson
City Council of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

February 20, 2019

Dear Amy,

Thank you for your years of service to the City of Saint Paul, especially for representing the residents of the Como Warrendale neighborhood. I believe that you will listen to the concerns surrounding the expansion of the Twin City German Immersion School, and **vote to preserve the iconic structure of the former St. Andrews church.**

Simply stated:

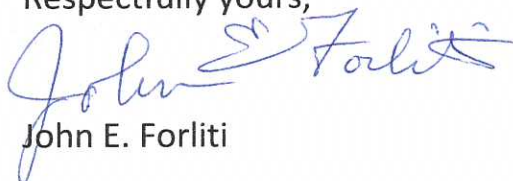
1) TCGIS's current operation and its plans for expansion reveal the fact that this school is too large for its footprint and the residential character of the neighborhood. **Size is the major driving issue.**

2) The present turmoil between TCGIS and a significant number of neighbors could have been avoided had the school not shut out the neighbors until its plan was set in concrete. Like my neighbors, I did not hear of their plan to demolish the Aula structure until less than one year ago, March, 2018, to be specific. Granted, it may have been an oversight, the **school's failure to realize the meaning of this structure even to neighbors who never belonged to St. Andrews.**

3) **The good will** of the broad membership of the neighborhood is at stake for years to come if collaboration with the Save Historic Saint Andrews continues to be ignored and denied.

Please vote to preserve the structure that has grounded this neighborhood for nearly a century. My family's roots began within earshot of St. Andrews in 1921. The church was built five years later!

Respectfully yours,



John E. Forliti