

St Paul City Council Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for historical preservation in general, and for saving the historic St. Andrew's church building in particular.

I am a father of two young girls under the age of 3, and we live within walking distance of the St Andrew's Church building. I want my girls to grow up in a strong, vibrant city that honors and protects its heritage. St Andrew's is a cherished neighborhood landmark, the very heart of Warrendale. The city of St Paul is often known as a city of neighborhoods, and bringing the wrecking ball to this neighborhood treasure is not, and cannot, be the right thing to do. I want my daughters to grow up in a city that respects and honors its legacy, and one that finds solutions to issues rather than bulldozing our past for short-sighted gains.

In the 1970s, the beloved Landmark Center in downtown St Paul was slated to be demolished. It was thought to be old-fashioned, old, outdated, and it was said that the land it sits on could be put to better use. It was just a pile of bricks, after all! Through the hard work and ingenuity of St Paul citizens and preservationists, the Landmark Center was saved, but just barely! Today it stands as a proud testament to those who put pride of place over short-term profitability, considering the quality of life and needs of surrounding neighbors and not the wants of current inhabitants of a particular building alone. Other treasured of the Twin Cities were not so lucky - most famously, the grand Metropolitan Building in Minneapolis, one of the most illustrious office towers of its era west of the Mississippi, fell victim to the mentality of the time. Profits were put above people, and as a result, the entire community is worse off for it today.

Let's not make this mistake again. Let's learn from the lessons of our past, including the Landmark Center, the Metropolitan Building, and so many others. Today the fate of a St Paul historic landmark - deemed eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places - sits in your hands. Please, make the right decision.

Sincerely,
Matthew Malcolm

May 14, 2019

Dear Councilmember Jane Prince,

I oppose the demolition of the former St. Andrew's Church because of its historical significance to the Como/Warrendale neighborhood. It is a beautiful and still highly functional building that does not deserve the wrecking ball.

I am a life long resident of St. Paul and have lived in Como Park for over 50 years. I attended St. Andrew's School as a child, and began my teaching career there in 1983 as a middle school Language Arts teacher.

I currently teach at Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew's School (MMSA), right across the lake from TCGIS, working one-on-one with our students with reading disabilities, specifically those with dyslexia.

Working with special learners, I have some insight into what is needed when it comes to offering high quality research-based reading instruction. In order to teach dyslexic students how to read and spell (in any language), you need a highly trained teacher, a set of phoneme (letter/sound/phonetic) cards, word lists, decodable reading material and a writing surface. That is all. The most important factor is the highly trained, experienced teacher who can work closely with the child as they progress over the years — a teacher who understands research-based instruction and provides a systematic, intensive, multi-sensory approach to reading and spelling.

We understand the importance of knowing and identifying the warning signs of dyslexia in our youngest learners (kindergarten) and provide them with classroom support early on. **Time, energy, and money are channeled towards personnel and instruction, not space.** At our school, we use one small resource classroom, a conference room and the school library for Tier 3 instructional purposes. AND YES, we have utilized hallways. Lots of kids and teachers make use of the flexible spacing.

I have been in the newly renovated Aula (gymnasium and performance space) at TCGIS. **They have created a beautiful sun-lit space for their students, investing tax-dollars in their updates and expansions.** When they first moved in (2014), they were overjoyed with their new school, gymnasium and cafeteria. They spent millions of dollars renovating the buildings, playgrounds, and parking lots. I am saddened that they are no longer satisfied with the space, but destroying a beloved and iconic historic neighborhood landmark so they can add a couple more classrooms is shortsighted and cruel.

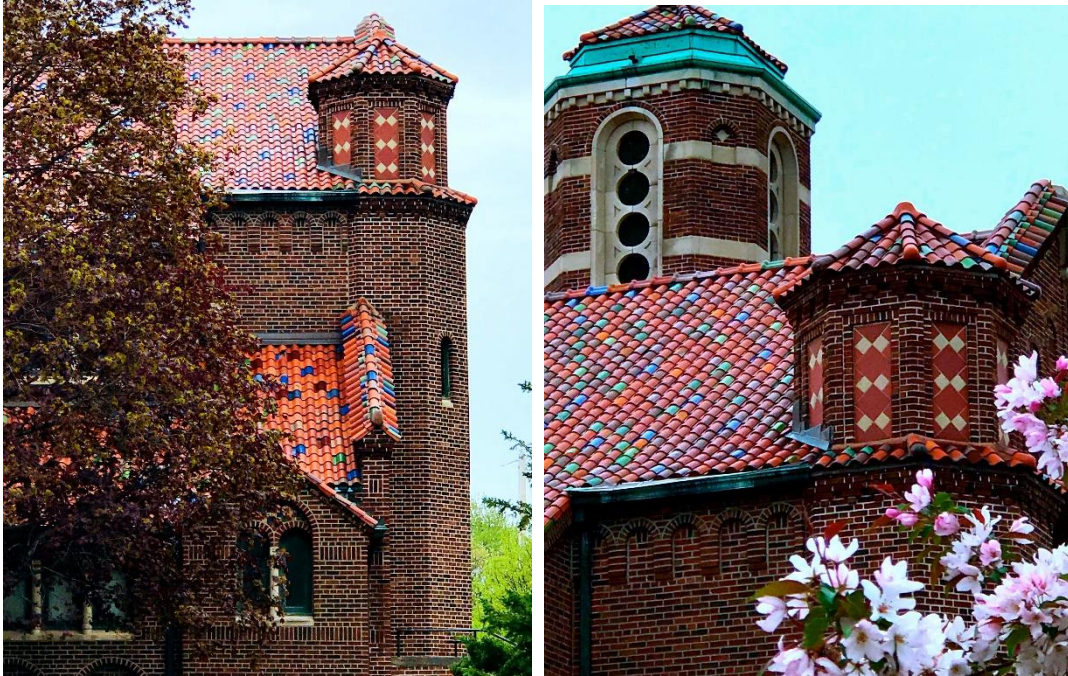
Having been in education/schools my entire adult life, I know that demographics and enrollment can and will change over time. Who knows what the numbers will be 10 years from now? Enrollment numbers may shrink or the school may choose to expand even more, creating the need to find new property that could accommodate a larger population. Meanwhile an irreplaceable, historic, and beautiful building would be no more.

The shock and grief expressed by millions of people witnessing the accidental devastation of Notre Dame in Paris will be replicated in St. Paul if TCGIS purposefully destroys this majestic building. Experts in the field have shown that there are alternatives.

Please use your vote as a Council Person to help save this building and show the rest of the world that history and place still matters in St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Marietta McCullough
1251 N. Victoria St.
St. Paul, MN



From: Sara Cox [<mailto:sara.cox12@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:53 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support of Historic Designation of Former St. Andrew's Church

Councilmember Prince,

We are writing to support designation of the former St. Andrew's Church (now the Twin Cities German Immersion School Aula) as a St. Paul Heritage Preservation site. We have lived at 1152 Churchill Street for 13 years and are directly across the alley from the west parking lot of the school.

As we reflect back on the past year of back and forth about the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) and the historic designation of the former St. Andrew's Church, we remain at a loss for words about how contentious this has become.

Our neighborhood will never be the same. Relationships have been permanently altered and in some cases severed. There are reasonable people on both sides of this issue, but the conversation has been fatally tainted by social media and misinformation from both sides. There are families on our street who oppose the demolition but have not wanted to engage in any public dialogue about it because it has become such a toxic topic. It is reasonable to assume there are TCGIS parents who have not spoken out for the same reason.

It is difficult to separate the two issues of historic designation and expansion of the school. We also oppose the expansion of the school at the current location. We are not alone in this. Reviewing results of the TCGIS Building Project Survey in mid July 2018, only 11% of Como neighbors supported expansion at the current site (see website link below). The proposed expansion of the school is too large for the

geographic area on which the current campus sits and will negatively impact the quality of life for those of us who call this neighborhood home.

We attended the D10 Land Use Committee meeting about the variance requests. We had to keep our two small children up until after 9pm to be able to vote on all three variances. We had to raise our hands in front of our neighbors and friends to vote. The time of meeting disenfranchised many of the neighbors who have young children and the voting procedure kept others from attending due to the contentious nature of this.

Our Warrendale neighborhood is full of bright orange yard signs requesting to stop the demolition. We, too, have one in our front yard. The vast majority of us do not know each other yet we all have the same desire to save the Aula and, we would wager, the same desire to have a productive two way dialogue about options for a TCGIS expansion. This is a hyper local issue. It feels different for people who do not live in the immediate neighborhood, but that should not diminish the opinions of those closest to and most directly impacted by this issue.

As parents of two children, one of whom is starting kindergarten through SPPS this fall, we respect the desire of the parents and the school administration to provide quality education, but there are other options for providing this than demolition of a historic building.

Thank you,
Sara & Ryan Cox
1152 Churchill St

TCGIS Building Project Survey

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b198e03ee1759f2bea1054e/t/5b6073790e2e72e41d0e01a0/1533047674027/TCGIS+Building+Project+Survey+Results+July+29+B.pdf>

From: Mike Nilles [<mailto:msnilles@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 4:42 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; ward6@ci.stapul.mn.us

Subject: Why we should save historic St Andrews

Dear Respected City Council members,

As a lifelong member of Como Park area and a graduate and parishioner of St Andrew's school and church, I am writing to express why I feel razing the ex-church is not in St Paul's best interest and should be considered a heritage preservation site.

The irony should not escape us about the fact that the organization that wants to raze the building is a German language immersion school, where I'm sure that old world values are also taught, reflecting the German culture. The irony is that if one has ever traveled to Germany (I've been there three times and lived in Europe for six years), one would marvel at the great care, pride and respect that the Germans give to their historic

buildings and, their resistance to bury their past architecture treasures at all costs. These buildings are what gives Germany and Europe its **charm**, a concept and aesthetic concern that has unfortunately been greatly lost here in the US. *It's one of the main reasons Americans pay thousands of dollars to travel overseas - to revel in the cities' and towns' charm, such as we used to have here!*

Thankfully we have done a better job protecting our natural wonders here, however, retaining charming architecture and neighborhoods is not very high on America's list of importance. Think about how many of us have grieved or even been outraged while watching or reading Larry Millet's "The Lost Twin Cities", "Twin Cities Then and Now" or "Once There Were Castles", at how many gorgeous hotels, museums, libraries, churches, homes etc. have been ripped down in the name of progress. That "progress" has left us with pitifully unappealing cities, soulless downtowns, urban sprawl, and a very un-charming urban landscape. Removing the St Andrews building would be another one of these same gaffes - 50 years from now when an updated version of the "Lost Twin Cities" comes out, people will see pictures of St Andrews church (and unfortunately its convent and rectory too) and say "Who would demolish such a beautiful structure and why?" Which is exactly what we've all said after seeing or reading the aforementioned titles. I don't think you would want to be known as one of the decision makers who are remembered for this. It's history repeating itself.

Lastly, I think for a lot of St Paulites this may seem a non-issue only because the church is not on a major street. Most residents of the city have not passed and seen this marvel, so it's "out of sight, out of mind". You can be sure however, that if this church was on Lexington Parkway or Snelling Ave for example, where thousands of people pass it everyday, the citizens would not tolerate the demolition. For those of you who don't represent this ward, please be careful not to let that sway your decision.

Please think carefully of the long term effects of reducing the charm of St Paul once again, and, instead, please consider leaving this legacy of old-world style, elegance and craftsmanship for many generations to come to appreciate.

With respect,

Mike Nilles

Robert Roscoe / Design for Preservation

1401 East River Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 612.317.0989 broscoc@earthlink.net

May 13, 2019

Councilmember Amy Brendmoen
St Paul City Council , Ward 7
15 Kellogg Blvd West
310 City Hall
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: St Andrew Church historic designation

Dear Councilmember Amy Brendmoen:

I am asking you and other city councilmembers to approve historic designation for St. Andrews Building on Como Avenue in the Warrendale/Como community in St. Paul. St. Andrews is owned by a German Immersion organization, who is rumored to consider demolition of this elegant structure to build a gymnasium.

St. Andrew's historical information lists Charles Hausler as the church's architect. Hausler designed many public buildings, including the three branch libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie. Besides Romanesque Revival, his building styles include Classical Revival, Prairie School, and Art Deco.


Where St. Andrew's significantly differs from the principal body of Romanesque Revival structures is its high degree of architectural articulation. Many building elements here provide a lively complexity unlike the typical sober architectural expression of this style.

Historic designation is strongly supported by many residents in the community, as given evidence at a community forum several months ago.

St. Andrews has an iconic value for St. Paul.

I live in Minneapolis, a city that is occasionally considered to tear down its history. Please, Councilmember Brendmoen, do not allow St. Paul to tear down its history.

Respectfully,


Bob Roscoe

Dear Councilmembers,

I am the parent of two children at Twin Cities German Immersion School and I am contacting you to ask you to vote against historic designation of the Aula (former St. Andrew's Church).

I am astounded that a small group of people, many of whom have a nebulous connection to the neighborhood or the former parish, could force a school to spend thousands of dollars to defend its right to do as it sees fit with its property. I am concerned that the city of St. Paul would seriously consider making a private entity comply with the wishes of a random group of people that has no intention of providing the financial means to make their demands happen.

If this unprecedented act were to be taken, why would anyone buy property in St. Paul that's more than 50 years old? Who wants the risk that if you want to do something to your property, someone with no connection to you, at any point in time, could say they don't like it and ask the city to stop you because of historic possibilities? I hope we haven't come to a point where we allow citizens to use the government to bully their way over other citizens and their rights concerning their own property.

I hope you will put an end to this situation by denying historic designation and in a few weeks approving the variances the school needs to continue to serve its students. Thank you.

Sean Beaton
Roseville MN

A few people are making a lot of noise about Saint Andrews. I don't think it deserves protecting.

The Catholic church is a abusive organization that protected pedophiles for decades. Why are we being asked to protect that legacy?

Bob Treumann
1290 Osage Street
St Paul MN 55117

From: Paul Kile <pkile@kilefamily.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 9:04 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: In support of Twin Cities German Immersion School

Dear Council President Brendmoen,
Dear Council Member Tolbert,

I am a Highland Park resident with two children educated by T.C.G.I.S. Additionally, my wife--a citizen of Germany--is employed at the school as a teacher. This letter is in support of the school's general plans to redevelop its property at 1031 Como Avenue. I write to you both because we live in one ward and the school is in the other ward.

I understand the disposition of the school's auditorium, a former church, is on the agenda for council meeting on Wednesday, May 15. Further, I understand the school wishes to demolish its auditorium (the former church) and replace it with a new facility that meets educational needs rather than the needs of a worshipping community. Without wishing to antagonize neighbors of the school, I support the school's desire to replace a building inappropriate for its needs with a different building that would be oriented to student needs.

The building is of course pretty, but not especially functional. Further, the school's success has resulted in growth--nearly at a logical end--and that calls for optimal space utilization that only new construction can provide.

My children think fondly of their time at the school (one is still there, but will move to Central High School in the fall), and my wife intends to remain a teacher. It would be a shame if the school could not appropriately support its programming or were uprooted to another location; the Como Avenue location is optimal for the school's needs--with an appropriate facility replacing the current auditorium.

Thank you for considering this citizen input as you make your decision.

Best regards,
Frederick Paul Kile
1602 Juno Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55116

From: Sara Cox <sara.cox12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:50 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support of Historic Designation of Former St. Andrew's Church

Councilmember Thao,

We are writing to support designation of the former St. Andrew's Church (now the Twin Cities German Immersion School Aula) as a St. Paul Heritage Preservation site. We have lived at 1152 Churchill Street for 13 years and are directly across the alley from the west parking lot of the school.

As we reflect back on the past year of back and forth about the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) and the historic designation of the former St. Andrew's Church, we remain at a loss for words about how contentious this has become.

Our neighborhood will never be the same. Relationships have been permanently altered and in some cases severed. There are reasonable people on both sides of this issue, but the conversation has been fatally tainted by social media and misinformation from both sides. There are families on our street who oppose the demolition but have not wanted to engage in any public dialogue about it because it has become such a toxic topic. It is reasonable to assume there are TCGIS parents who have not spoken out for the same reason.

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Thank you,
Sara & Ryan Cox
1152 Churchill St

TCGIS Building Project Survey
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From: Lena Gould <lenagould@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:37 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Opposition to Historic Designation of TCGIS building

Lena Gould
1284 Portland Ave
St. Paul, MN 55104

City Council of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Thao:

As a resident of the City of Saint Paul, Ward 1, and a parent of two students, plus an incoming kindergartner, at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I oppose the historic designation of the former church that is currently part of TCGIS.

As a resident of Saint Paul, I am proud to have TCGIS here because of the reputation this school has in the community of the Twin Cities and beyond. Many families have chosen to move closer to the school over the years, and the longer the school remains at its current location, the more families will move to be near the school. Our family moved back to St. Paul this past November from Roseville. We love being closer to TCGIS and are planning to continue our children's German education through the school's partnership with Central High School. Deliberate moves like ours increase the stability of the surrounding neighborhoods and increase property values in the immediate community. In fact, several families bought up properties around the school that were in need of repair. More and more staff choose to live in Saint Paul and specifically within walking distance or biking distance of the school. 57 students live in District 10, and nearly half live in other parts of Saint Paul.

TCGIS has also been a positive force in the community as a whole. Students have a clean up day around Lake Como and Como Park, and the school has gone above and beyond in developing a green facility with stormwater filtration and landscaping as examples. Their outdoor facilities are available to the families around the neighborhood when school isn't in session. More than 50% of the year is quiet for neighbors, including nights, weekends, holidays and longer school breaks. The school's indoor facilities have been used as a gathering space for various groups and events. TCGIS adds to the vitality of the community with a 5K fun run and Halloween parade.

I ask you to please vote against historic designation so that TCGIS can continue to attract families and highly qualified staff from around the world. Please, allow TCGIS to continue to thrive at our current and forever home.

Sincerely,
Lena Gould

Colin Kreuziger
2800 43rd Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

May 15, 2019

Via Email Only

Dai Thao

ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Rebecca Noecker

ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Chris Tolbert

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Mitra Jalali Nelson

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Amy Brendmoen, Council President

ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Kassim Busuri

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Jane L. Prince

ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Mayor Melvin Carter

mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us

To whom it may concern:

My wife and I send our three children to the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS). We plan on sending our three children to St. Paul Central for high school to continue their education. I am writing this letter in opposition to the petition to designate the former St. Andrew's Church as a historic building in need of preservation.

This petition offers the city council two choices: (1) support the growth of an innovative and unique charter school that successfully educates over 500 children in St. Paul; or (2) prioritize the aesthetic, nostalgic, and religious concerns of a small number of individuals over the educational needs of elementary school children. I urge you to choose option number one.

Background

As you consider your decision, you should be aware of some background information. TCGIS is a K-8 public charter school that operates in accordance with state law that regulates all charter schools. TCGIS is a public school; any Minnesota student can attend the school without regard to the student's place of residence, and almost all of TCGIS's funding is received from the State of Minnesota. Most children who attend TCGIS live in Minneapolis or St. Paul, although students from all over the Twin Cities metro area attend the school.

TCGIS is subject to various forms of oversight, including regular audits of its finances and annual scrutiny from an authorizer to ensure compliance with applicable state law. Pursuant to state statute, TCGIS does not own the property where the school is located. Instead, an affiliated building corporation owns the property.

The property that TCGIS occupies contains various structures, including the main school building. One of the structures is a former Catholic church that was desanctified in 2012 when the Archdiocese decided to close the former St. Andrew's Parish.

Like most charter schools, TCGIS started small. When I sat on the TCGIS finance committee prior to its move to the current location, middle school class sizes were well below the norm. Graduating eighth-grade classes typically consisted of ten students or fewer. In contrast, my youngest child's class will likely graduate approximately seventy-five students.

Prior to TCGIS's move to its current location, it faced a decision. TCGIS previously operated out of an old warehouse on University Avenue (at the site of the proposed Dickerman Park) that had been converted for use by multiple schools. The space was not ideal for a school, and TCGIS's lease was expiring. The landlord sought a large rent increase, due in large part to the anticipated

construction of the Green Line. As a result, TCGIS made the decision to relocate and seek a permanent home to serve its students.

As the finance committee pondered the limited options available to TCGIS, it became obvious that it made financial sense to purchase a property rather than continue to rent. Despite that fact, the finance committee and the TCGIS Board budgeted conservatively. Specifically, we exhaustively reviewed historical attrition and budget data and concluded that the current location could easily meet the space needs of TCGIS, provided that certain modifications to the property could be made. Among those modifications was renovation of the former St. Andrew's church building. The structure is now referred to as the Aula.

Both the Board and the Finance Committee spent vast amounts of time analyzing the financial implications of the move. As responsible fiscal stewards of TCGIS, we assumed that historical attrition trends would continue, and concluded that TCGIS could survive financially if we relocated to the current location.

That assumption proved to be mistaken. After moving to its current location, TCGIS saw significant growth in its student population. I believe this is due to two factors: (1) the phenomenal academic success of the school, as measured by MCA test performance; and (2) a huge decline in attrition at the middle school level. TCGIS is among the highest performing schools in the state as measured by MCA test scores. And attrition at the middle school level has dwindled to negligible levels.

In short, the growth of TCGIS was not anticipated because historical data simply would not have supported such an assumption. Moreover, making an assumption of dynamic growth in the student population would have been fiscally irresponsible and potentially fatal to TCGIS.

After a few years of sustained growth in the student population, it became apparent that the current configuration of the school property was inadequate. Recognizing its position, the TCGIS Board concluded in 2017 that it needed to alter the school property to meet the educational and safety needs of its students. After extensive consideration of different options and the opinions of community members and parents, the Board concluded that the only fiscally responsible option involved replacing the Aula with a new, more functional building. This is due in large part to the exorbitant costs associated with (1) continuing to maintain the Aula; or (2) operating two campuses in an effort to ultimately relocate TCGIS and sell the

current property. Either option would be fiscally irresponsible and jeopardize the education of TCGIS's students.

Resistance to TCGIS's renovation plans

During the lengthy planning process for renovation of the property, a group known as "Save Historic St. Andrew's" ("SHSA") formed and expressed concern over TCGIS's plans to renovate the property. It is not clear to me how many individuals are members of SHSA, who its members are, or how this organization makes decisions.

In any event, SHSA requested that TCGIS reconsider its renovation plans and insisted that TCGIS not replace the Aula. SHSA presented its arguments on multiple occasions at meetings of the TCGIS Board, which are open to the public pursuant to state law.

After the TCGIS Board rejected SHSA's requests and announced its intention to proceed with its renovation plans, SHSA filed the petition for historic designation of the Aula that is currently before you. SHSA's intention is plain: having failed to convince TCGIS to voluntarily change its plans, SHSA now seeks to force TCGIS to use state funds to maintain a building for the aesthetic, nostalgic, and religious enjoyment of the general public.

The Actions of the Historic Preservation Commission Should be Rejected Because They Give No Consideration to the Property Owner's Interests

As you know, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended historic designation of the Aula over the vociferous objection of TCGIS. I urge you to set aside the HPC's designation. I am not a historian or an architect, so I cannot comment on the "historic" nature of this structure, other than to note that my own home in Minneapolis is thirteen years older than this structure, and I do not believe anyone considers it to be historic. Instead, I will address other reasons why the council should reject the HPC's recommendation.

HPC's recommendation does not concern itself with the effect on the property owner. And here, the effect on TCGIS and its students could be devastating. Not only would historic designation prevent TCGIS from renovating the property in a manner that would benefit its student population, it would also likely prevent TCGIS from changing its location. This is true because any potential buyer would be aware that the Aula is designated as a historic structure and subject to all of the

associated property use restrictions. This would severely limit the marketability of the property and likely drastically reduce its market value.

In fact, such a designation, over the objection of the property owner, could be construed as a taking in violation of applicable law. Such a taking could subject the City of St. Paul to protracted litigation, particularly if the loss to the property owner is large, as it likely would be here.

The Council should also consider the precedent that would be set by permitting the HPC's recommendation to stand. Such an action would have a number of undesirable effects.

HPC's recommendation encourages any disgruntled individual to use the historic preservation designation process as a sword against a property owner who does not comply with the objector's wishes. Here, for example, SHSA was not satisfied by TCGIS's response to its concerns, so it has sought historic designation in an effort to obstruct TCGIS's renovation plans.

SHSA's efforts in this regard are transparent: no effort was made to designate the structure as historic when the Archdiocese desanctified and sold the property. Similarly, no effort was made to designate the structure when TCGIS substantially renovated the Aula itself. If the structure was truly historic, it stands to reason that action to have it designated would have been taken prior to TCGIS's stated intention to replace the structure. In addition, as discussed in further detail below, other facts demonstrate that SHSA is primarily motivated by a desire to hinder TCGIS, not a sincere concern for historic preservation.

SHSA's invocation of the historic designation process has already drained funds from TCGIS that should be spent on educating children. Many other property owners could not withstand the increased cost that SHSA's actions have foisted upon TCGIS. Ultimately, allowing the historic designation process to serve as another tool to obstruct property owners will inhibit development of all kinds in the City of St. Paul.

In addition, the City of St. Paul would be treading on dangerous ground by designating the Aula as a historic structure. If it does so, its decision would effectively require TCGIS to use state funds designated for the education of children to be re-directed to the maintenance of a structure for the claimed aesthetic, nostalgic, and religious benefits it would confer on a small group of

people. That same group of people bears no financial responsibility for maintenance of the Aula.

Again, the effect of such a decision would necessarily give pause to any property owner considering redevelopment of any parcel in St. Paul. That would not be a desirable outcome for the City of St. Paul, which already faces financial challenges due to the percentage of non-taxable land contained in the city limits.

SHSA's Other Arguments Reveal That It Seeks Destruction of TCGIS, Not Historic Preservation

SHSA has made numerous arguments in its efforts to prevent TCGIS from renovating the property. Each of them is specious. I want to address them because the nature of the arguments reveals that SHSA is motivated by opposition to TCGIS, not a desire for historic preservation.

Diversity

SHSA has engaged other outside groups, including the NAACP, to oppose TCGIS's renovation plans generally. Both SHSA and the NAACP have argued that charter schools generally and TCGIS specifically, exacerbate existing school segregation by their very existence.

This argument reflects a narrow understanding of diversity. TCGIS, by its focus on the language and culture of a foreign country, necessarily exposes children to diversity. For example, the school employs German-speaking interns and teachers from countries all over Europe, including Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. As a result, the children are exposed to people from cultures that are significantly different than their own.

Similarly, TCGIS tends to attract individuals with a unique international perspective. For example, my children share their classrooms with children of varied ethnic backgrounds, including Palestinian, Vietnamese, and Iranian. Thus, the notion that TCGIS has no "diversity" is an oversimplification.

In fact, TCGIS's racial demographic profile is roughly similar to other charter schools in St. Paul. For example, Nova Classical Academy is overwhelmingly white (70.5%) and has a similar socioeconomic profile. Great River School, which shares busing with TCGIS, is similarly 74.5% white and has a similar socioeconomic profile.

TCGIS is no more segregated than the neighborhood in which it resides. The unfortunate reality is that St. Paul, like Minneapolis, is a highly segregated city. Residential segregation persists in both cities due, in part, to a sordid history of racial discrimination. St. Paul's public schools (like those in Minneapolis) remain highly segregated, and children of color have disproportionately poor educational outcomes.

This is not a problem that is unique to TCGIS, and TCGIS cannot solve these intractable problems by itself, although TCGIS is making efforts in this area. TCGIS leadership recently met with the NAACP to discuss ways to increase diversity at TCGIS, and I expect that those discussions will bear fruit. TCGIS also welcomes children from all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. This is part of TCGIS's core mission, and I see it in action.

In any event, this debate should have no bearing on the historic designation question. TCGIS exists, and the outcome of this particular dispute will not change the school's demographic profile. If anything, this argument simply demonstrates that SHSA dislikes charter schools generally, and TCGIS in particular. And those considerations do not render the Aula a historic structure.

Traffic, Parking, and Noise

SHSA has repeatedly raised concerns about traffic, parking, and noise. All of these complaints are overstated, but they do shed light on SHSA's actual motivation in seeking historic designation of the Aula.

Certain neighbors have complained to TCGIS about all of these issues since TCGIS moved to its current location. It is true that TCGIS, like all schools educating hundreds of children, generates a significant amount of traffic for a limited period of time in the mornings and afternoons. It is also true that TCGIS has many students who commute by car.

But I have visited the neighborhood many times at all hours of the day. At those times (either when school is in session or complete for the day), parking is available everywhere and traffic is limited. The neighborhood is quiet and has a typical residential character.

TCGIS has made numerous and ongoing efforts to ameliorate the effects of increased traffic in the neighborhood, including expanding its efforts to bus children to school. Ironically, the efforts of groups like SHSA serve only to reduce

the availability of funds that could be used to pay for expanded busing that would reduce traffic in the neighborhood.

With respect to noise, neighbors have actually recorded the decibel level of the children while they are playing at recess and made complaints to the City of St. Paul alleging that TCGIS is violating the noise ordinance.

In short, SHSA's motivations reflect the long-held concerns of a minority of neighbors: they view TCGIS as a foreign invader¹ in their neighborhood rather than a legitimate neighbor, and they are seeking any avenue, including historic designation of the Aula, to force TCGIS from the neighborhood.

Threats

I would also be remiss if I did not express my concern about SHSA's tactics.

SHSA has made posts to its public Facebook page that could easily be construed as thinly veiled threats to the safety of TCGIS students. These threats have been reported to the St. Paul Police. It goes without saying that threats to children are beneath contempt. I remain concerned that SHSA's members are so incensed by TCGIS's plans that one of them could attempt to harm children.

SHSA has protested across the street from TCGIS, specifically timing its protests to coincide with student dismissal. I am well aware that the First Amendment protects virtually all forms of speech. But I question the motivation of a group that feels the need to implicitly engage and shame children, many of whom are five years old, due to a dispute between adults about property usage. I can assure you that my children feel that they are not welcome in the neighborhood due to these protests and the other actions (such as noise level monitoring) that have occurred.

And finally, SHSA has continually misrepresented facts about TCGIS, its administration, its parents, and this dispute. A full discussion of the misrepresentations is impossible due to the sheer number of falsehoods that have been deployed by this group in an effort to sway public opinion.

In short, given all of the frivolous arguments that SHSA has deployed in its efforts to stymie TCGIS, I doubt the sincerity of SHSA's motivation in seeking historic

¹ You do not need to take my word for it: SHSA maintains a Facebook page. On its page, SHSA referred to TCGIS as a "conquering force" in the neighborhood in a now-deleted post to its page.

designation of the Aula. The Council should not allow SHSA to use historic designation as a smokescreen for its efforts to force TCGIS out of the neighborhood.

Conclusion

TCGIS is a major asset to the community. It serves students from throughout the Twin Cities, including approximately 250 St. Paul residents. Importantly, TCGIS provides a unique immersion program that is not available in any other school in the metro area, or the state of Minnesota. In fact, very few German immersion programs exist throughout the country.

As I mentioned above, TCGIS is one of the top performing public schools in the State of Minnesota, as measured by state-mandated test results, and it has received other accolades as well, including from the German government. The parents that make up the TCGIS community are deeply engaged in their children's education, and they work hard at raising intelligent and respectful children. These children are the future of the Twin Cities metro area.

Many of these students (including my own) are going on to study at St. Paul Central when they finish their education at TCGIS. These students, some of whom do not live in St. Paul, are bringing their unique experience and talent to the St. Paul Public schools, along with the funding that follows. I would not consider sending my children to St. Paul schools but for the existence of this program.

You have a choice to make, and it should be an easy one: (1) support the efforts of TCGIS to provide a quality education free of charge to all students; (2) disregard the needs of children in favor of a nebulous group of residents bent on destruction of TCGIS and charter schools.

I ask that you reject the Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Colin Kreuziger
2800 43rd Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

From: Lora Murtha [<mailto:lora.murtha@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 11:24 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: TCGIS historic preservation

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing you to ask that you please vote against historic designation on the building now owned and occupied by TCGIS. I want to share our family's story about this school instead of repeating the same facts that you have heard and seen so many times already.

My son is in first grade at TCGIS, but our story goes back much further. In the summer of 1999 I went to Germany with my High School German class along with the German class from Lakeville. The teacher from Lakeville was Frau Zachmeier-Ruh. She had been telling us about her dreams to open a German Immersion school. It sounded so interesting and fun. Immersion schools were not as common as they are now and I hadn't fully understood the concept, but I knew it sounded unique. I was about to start my senior year of high school and kids were so far off in my future but I knew as she was telling us her dream that I wanted my future kids to go to that school. How fortunate for me that we chose to move to Saint Paul and to live within miles of this dream school turned reality nearly 20 years later!

This school is important to me and my family. I had been dreaming of sending my kids here, my son is thriving in this environment, and I have a 3 year old who can't wait to go to German school too! But we have fears. We worry what this historic designation will do to the school. Where the money to preserve and maintain such a structure will come from and at what cost to our teachers and our students. Will the school even still be available for my little one to start Kindergarten in a few years? TCGIS has been such a strong community for our family. As a parent there will always be fears, but a vote against historic designation can help eliminate a few of those fears.

Thank you for your time.

Lora Murtha
341 Rose Ave. E.
St. Paul, MN 55130

From: Adam Schaab [<mailto:adam@magushealingcenter.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:46 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Preserve St. Andrew's

Dear Council Members,

I'll be brief. I strongly urge you to uphold the Heritage Preservation Commission's recommendation to designate St. Andrew's as a local historic site. Our history is irreplaceable. Our architectural heritage is irreplaceable. The beauty of our city and our neighborhood is irreplaceable.

As a millennial, I am acutely aware that we have a very limited window to preserve the world for future generations, both on a global and a local level. Not tearing down a beloved building is and will always be greener than tearing it down to build something completely disposable. I want us to leave behind a healthy planet, full of beauty and character.

The Heritage Preservation Commission voted 9-1 for a reason. Respect this and safeguard this architectural gem for future generations.

Adam Schaab
873 Oxford St N
St. Paul MN 55103

From: pattirud1@aol.com [<mailto:pattirud1@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:53 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: ron@stoneridgesoftware.com; pattirud1@aol.com

Subject: VOTE IN FAVOR of historic designation for ST ANDREW'S

Ward 1 Dai Thoa ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ward 2 Rebecca Noecker ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ward 3 Chris Tolbert ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ward 4 Mitra Jalali Nelson ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ward 5 Amy Brendmoen ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ward 6 Kassim Busuri ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ward 7 Jane Prince ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Dear Council Members:

With the impending vote on ST ANDREW'S coming before the council this week, we need to make sure that we weigh in.

We strongly support a vote in FAVOR of the historic designation of St Andrew's.

We have lived in the Warrendale neighborhood of Como Park since the mid 80's. We bought our home when we were in our 20's and went on to raise our 3 children in and around this neighborhood. We have been staunch supporters of the Zoo, the Pavillion, the Golf Course... literally, all things COMO. We've hosted alley clean-ups, neighborhood holiday parties & community fundraisers. We even started a golf league to add golf rounds to the once struggling Como Golf Course. We've helped clean out the lake in kayaks and we've been a part of the pick-up crews getting litter off our local streets...we've walked these walks over the years and over the decades. Point being, we are deeply rooted in this neighborhood. Our experience here isn't one of a fleeting nature. This isn't just a couple year proposition for us. This has been and is our "forever" home neighborhood!

And we, along with many folks we know from Como, have a shared reverence for the history of the park, the people and the structures that have been so critical to the identity of this neighborhood. So having said that, it is with the most sincere request we make to you, those serving on the St. Paul City Council, to please vote in favor of historic designation for St. Andrew's, one of our great local historical gems. Just as the old street car station, which adds tremendous character to the area, was saved and reused, we ask that

you save and continue to reuse the historically significant St. Andrews. These structures are what make Como COMO and the Warrendale neighborhood WARRENDALE!

Besides honoring the historical relevance, we are a community that promotes and passionately participates in the REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE! philosophy. Literally, nothing speaks louder on respect for REUSE than this! Tax payers already paid to renovate this structure. Let's continue to honor that plan... it was the right one.

Living in Ward 5, we are staunch supporters of Amy Brendmoen and have appreciated her strong leadership in the district. But we see that friends & fellow supporters & neighbors and various voters are divided on this critical issue.

Its a difficult one! But please know that we have been welcoming neighbors to the German Immersion School, having made several friendships amongst the families that attend. We support them, but as invested stewards of the neighborhood, we truly see this historical designation issue as an issue unto itself.

Thanks for your consideration,
Regards,
Patti & Ron Rud

From: Peter Radford [<mailto:pmradford@mmm.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 4:52 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: TCGIS historic preservation vote

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen,

I am the father of a TCGIS alum (now a junior at Central High School) and current 7th grade TCGIS student. The replacement of the church building with a new structure proposed by TCGIS and the voice (Save Historic St. Andrews) opposed to it is a difficult situation in the Warrendale neighborhood. However, the destruction that occurred recently at the Cathedral of Notre Damme gave me pause to feel and think. While I would consider the Cathedral of St. Paul historic, I would not have that same feeling regarding St. Andrews. St. Andrews just doesn't rise to that level, unless you are an immediate neighbor or former church member.

I have in the past been on the building committee of an 100+ year old church. I understand what is needed sometimes for the upkeep of these buildings and how it can cost a lot. The money for maintenance would come from public dollars intended for education and not intended for historic preservation. Public per pupil funding does consider overhead, but not at the level of historic preservation, and the building being preserved is fitting less and less with the needs and mission of the school.

Our mission is language immersion education and we are good at it. TCGIS has been so successful as a public charter school that the student population growth has created the need for a building better able to serve our students' needs. Vibrant schools make for vibrant neighborhoods as young parents weigh staying in the city versus moving to the suburbs. Successful schools are a large factor in that decision.

Finally I ask you to consider a question. Is it more likely that:

- 1) children educated at TCGIS will grow up and return to St. Paul to have their kids educated at TCGIS? or

2) children growing up in the shadow of St. Andrews will return to St. Paul to have their kids grow up in the shadow of St. Andrews?

Consider this question carefully, and then please vote against historic preservation.

Respectfully,
Peter Radford
323 Front St.
St. Paul, MN

From: MarileeTuite [<mailto:marileetuite@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:27 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote against historic designation of the former church that is currently part of TCGIS

City Council of Saint Paul
Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen:

As a parent of a 7th grader and a 5th grader at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), I oppose the historic designation of the former church that is currently part of TCGIS.

Although we live in Minneapolis, we decided to have our children attend school in St. Paul (starting in 2011 and 2013, respectively) because of the academic reputation of TCGIS, the chance to learn German and Spanish, and its proximity to my workplace. We have a vested interest in the development of the city as the school brings us to St. Paul every day. Our family is mindful of transportation's impact on the environment, and we have handled this with a hybrid of carpooling and riding the school bus. We have been very engaged in the school, despite not living in the immediate neighborhood. I have served on PTO's executive team for two years, was a parent contact for two grades, and currently participate in the Capstone Committee. My 7th grader is active with the school's cross-country and track & field teams and has represented the school twice in the Minnesota Geography Bee. My 5th grader is completing her 4th year in the school-based Girl Scout Troop 57317 (the largest troop in the state).

TCGIS also reaches out into the world. Every year the 8th graders participate in a "Capstone" exchange where they receive young people from Germany as visitors, and then they go to Germany for a few weeks. This cultural exchange will instill the potential for these students to be part of future delegations between St. Paul/Minnesota and other countries. Our family has also hosted an intern (student teacher) from Germany who assisted a 2nd grade teacher. The German Consulate has visited the City of St. Paul because of TCGIS.

Please vote against historic designation as this issue would likely cause the school to suffer insurmountable financial hardships and drive families away from St Paul. Please prioritize the future over the past. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Marilee Tuite
405 Thomas Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55405

May 14, 2019

From: Beth Fruehling
TCGIS Parent

To: City Council of Saint
Paul 15 Kellogg Blvd.
West Saint Paul, MN
55102

Dear Council Members,

As a parent of a third-grade student at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I am writing today to ask that the application to give the former St. Andrew's church building historic designation be denied. This request will put an unrealistic financial burden on both our school and our parents as we seek additional funding to preserve this aging property. I have personally worked in the basement kitchen for two years and felt its cold drafts in the winter, sweltering heat in the fall and spring, and the cramped space we have for serving meals and teaching gym classes simultaneously.

For the last four years, I have been very proud to have our child enrolled in one of the best German-Immersion schools in the nation. I have also thought how fortunate the school is to be located in such a quaint neighborhood with special access to one of the Twin Cities most beautiful parks and zoos. In addition to its academic reputation and its unique language curriculum, this closeness to one of St. Paul's urban sanctuaries was a major draw for having my child in this specific immersion program.

Many families, like ours, enjoy what the City of St. Paul has to offer—most notably for our students the proximity to area parks and educational resources: the U of M, the notable Liberal Arts colleges, and St. Paul Museums. Like our neighbors, we have a vested interest in the development of the city as the school brings us to St. Paul every day. We stop at coffee shops, restaurants, and grocery stores before school, support businesses along Grand Avenue and enjoy the new development happening downtown St. Paul.

As for the TCGIS neighborhood, we love its quaint, quiet locale as much as the residents do—but it is an unrealistic and unfair decision to force it to remain “the same” just for emotional reasons that overlook the immediate needs of our school. To date, our school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move and design a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Our new attractive, tasteful and practical school building will allow us to grow and develop another tradition for this neighborhood for years to come. And as a parent, I will always make sure to be respectful of the sacrifices made by the neighborhood—accommodating their needs when it comes to parking and traffic during congested times. I was pleased to have also witnessed some neighbors express their support for our changes, and hope that this energy continues to grow; “I remember a time when the church was empty, and now there is a community.” For this reason, I see this time of change as a positive opportunity for the

neighborhood and the school to come together and make something for the future that will benefit everyone.

In closing, I hope you will understand that there are parents who care deeply for both the school and the Como/St. Paul community. We have done everything we can do to look at alternative solutions that would satisfy the interests of everyone, but it is clear that the best option is to move forward with a new property that takes into consideration the needs of our growing school *while* respecting our neighbors. I have been an active financial supporter of TCGIS—as Charter schools do not often have the robust financial resources as public schools—and would much rather have my donations go directly towards supporting the TCGIS international teaching staff, broadening educational enrichment opportunities, and providing teacher incentives than to replace and/or maintain areas of the school such as this:





Thank you for your time and commitment to making a fair decision in this matter. Kind regards,

Beth Fruehling

Beth
Fruehling
TCGIS
Parent
12 Island View Lane
St. Paul, MN 55127

May 14, 2019

To: St. Paul City Council Members: Dai Thao, Rebecca Noecker, Chris Tolbert, Mitra Jalali Nelson, Amy Brendmoen, Kassim Busuri, Chris Tolbert

From: Mary Burnison
Retired Youth Worker, Educator and University of MN Youth Studies Faculty
Member 1131 Argyle Street, St Paul, MN 55103 maryburnison@gmail.com
Neighbor who has lived in Como Warrendale Neighborhood for 33 years

Re: Saving a Landmark Building
St Andrew's/German Immersion School

Dear St Paul City Council Members:

I urge you to approve historic designation for the former St Andrew's Building in Como Warrendale Neighborhood in St Paul. I lend my voice to others in the community urging you to preserve this building.

As a St Paul resident who values and understands the importance of history and place, I know what an important community anchor this landmark building has been and continues to be in our neighborhood. I'm asking you to recognize this as you look after the long-term interests of our community.

At this time I am asking you to vote for the former St Andrew's to be designated as a Local Historic Preservation Site in St Paul. As City Council Members and Elected City Leaders, you can save this beautiful Landmark from destruction.

I encourage you to request the German Immersion School to work with the City of St Paul and the Como Warrendale Neighborhood to pursue one of the many options they have. Through collaboration and real neighborhood input, a better plan and one that does not require demolition of this landmark, is possible. The extra time it takes to collaborate, compromise and come up with another plan will be worth it!

Councilmembers:

As a resident of the South Como neighborhood, I respectfully urge you to deny the request by a neighborhood group to force the former St Andrew's Church building at 1031 Como Avenue onto Saint Paul's list of Historic Preservation Sites against the wishes of the property owner, the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

On December 5 of last year, the Land Use Committee held a series of votes on the three variances the school would need to build their new addition. This was important, because only actual neighbors could vote -- finally we would see how the neighborhood truly felt.

We neighbors voted in favor of all three variances.

It is my opinion that the majority of those of us living in the area around the school are in favor of its expansion, and while I am normally a fan of saving older buildings, I would much rather have a vibrant school than an empty building, no matter how pretty the brickwork is.

Thank you for your time,

Jeremy Stomberg
1056 Ryde Street
Saint Paul

Via Email Dianne Bell
2430 Cedar Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55416

City Council of Saint Paul 15
Kellogg Blvd. West Saint Paul,
MN 55102

Dear St Paul Council Members:

As a parent of a student at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), I oppose the historic designation of the former church that is currently part of TCGIS.

Like most parents, we chose TCGIS because we felt it was the best choice for our children. School choice has been a hallmark of Minnesota public education for decades, and has allowed parents to make school choices for their children based on individual education needs and desires; choices which can span districts and cities.

Our family is a case in point. Although we live in Minneapolis, we decided to have our children attend this school in Saint Paul primarily because of the value we placed on its German immersion curriculum, despite the distance between our home in Minneapolis and the school's location in St Paul. TCGIS is the only German immersion school in the entire state of Minnesota, and the largest German immersion school in the United States. This is something Minnesota and the city of St Paul should be proud of, value, and strive to support. This curriculum has led to superior academic success and has bolstered TCGIS' reputation to the extent that families from St Paul and beyond seek out TCGIS as a school for their children, leading to far more applications than open spots throughout grades K - 8.

There is a significant financial benefit to St Paul of families like ours attending a school outside of our home district. Many families like ours enjoy what the City of Saint Paul has to offer. We have a vested interest in the development of the city as the school brings us to Saint Paul every day. We do our various errands, shopping and free time activities within the city. We support businesses and restaurants along Grand Avenue and visit museums in downtown Saint Paul. Many students at TCGIS will also attend Saint Paul's Central High School, which will continue to bring in families like ours to spend time in the City of Saint Paul.

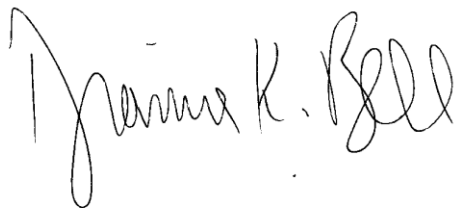
TCGIS reaches out into the world, as well. Every year the 8th graders go to Germany for a few weeks and receive young people from Germany as visitors. Saint Paul becomes a place to visit for many from around world who otherwise would not know of St Paul. The German Consulate has also come to visit the City of Saint Paul because of TCGIS. And, on May 22nd, the First Bundesliga German soccer team, Hertha Berlin, will come

and spend several hours at school with our kids before playing that evening against Minnesota United. The Berlin soccer team is something akin to the New York Yankees in stature, and to have them come visit our school is a true honor, and will make an impression on the players as well.

For all these reason and more, I ask that the Saint Paul city council resoundingly oppose historic designation of our school. This issue would likely cause the school to suffer insurmountable financial hardships and drive families away from Saint Paul. It would force the school to use scarce education dollars to preserve a building that does not serve our children's needs. To impose these onerous and unnecessary burdens on a thriving, successful public school would be a travesty. Last, but not least, granting historic designation to the school over its vehement objection sets an incredibly dangerous precedent for the City of St Paul, with far-reaching ramifications.

The City Council of St Paul should unequivocally oppose this historic designation burden on TCGIS.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas K. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Adam Olson
537 Raymond Ave
Saint Paul, MN
55104

City Council of Saint
Paul 15 Kellogg Blvd.
West Saint Paul, MN
55102

Dear Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson,

The question of historic designation of the former church of St. Andrew's will likely be put to you in the coming weeks. I would like you to oppose this historic designation due to the enormous financial impact this would have on a public school that does not even desire the designation.

The former church now belongs to the Twin Cities German Immersion School and is physically connected to the rest of the school building after a 2014 addition. The former church has been adaptively reused as a makeshift gymnasium and cafeteria for the past 6 years; however, the building is costly to maintain and does not meet the programming needs of the school.

The nearly 100-year old building requires substantial maintenance. Estimates for basic repair of the building exceed \$1.2 million. If historic designation is granted, these costs would greatly exceed the \$1.2 million due to the requirements specified by the HPC's preservation plan. The maintenance alone is beyond what the school can afford, not to mention the implications that this facility has on the educational experience of TCGIS students. The primary purpose for a public school is to educate children, and funds diverted to historic designation would impede this purpose.

The proponents of historic designation commonly mention that there are grants to maintain such a facility, although the proponents themselves do not offer financial support or search them out in support of a school in their own community. Furthermore, local designation only offers tax relief, which is of no benefit to a tax-exempt public school. Moreover, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) letter from December 2018 strikingly omitted any mention of eligibility for state designation or national registration. HPC commissioner, Casie Radford, publicly stated that in her experience, the alterations already done to the former church would prevent it from earning a spot on the national registry of historic places.

Councilmember Nelson, I recognize the high environmental price we pay as a society when old energy inefficient and uninsulated buildings are used on a daily basis, as well as the price the occupants pay in lack of comfort such drafty structures create for our students and staff. Our new building will meet new standards for energy efficiency, have large windows providing both daylight and solar heat gain, and be a learning environment children in which

children will thrive. Please vote against historic designation, because the environment and the kids will thank you.

Best
regards,
Adam
Olson

From: Margaret Hamburger [<mailto:margaret.hamburger@oracle.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 10:42 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please vote YES to Historical Designation of former Church of Saint Andrews

Dear Council President Amy Brendmoen,

Tonight is a historic night for preserving a local Como neighborhood historic landmark. While not as well known as the Como Park Pavilion, historically preserved Street Car Station, or our famous zoo, please vote to uphold the Heritage Preservation Commission's recommendation (near-unanimous 9-1 vote) to designate St. Andrew's as a local historic building.

Demolishing the old church building that has been successfully integrated into the School's Auditorium or Aula will not change the fact that the site is already too small for the 540 students they now serve and will only continue to exacerbate traffic, limit parking, or add more green space. The current site is simply too small for the German Immersion's growth plans to serve over 600 students. Their new site plan doesn't make sense when you compare their current site with other local Public schools with similar or smaller student populations. Crossroads Elementary has a population well over 600 students and their facility covers a complete city block. Como Park Elementary serves over 500 students on a site that almost covers a city block. Both are nestled into neighborhoods, but the impact on traffic, parking and local neighbors is reasonable.

I think there are solutions the Charter and the City could consider that would allow the Charter to serve more students. They've already proved they can attract students without building a state of the art gymnasium. If it's classroom space they need to serve middle school aged students then the city could work with the Charter to help them find space in our public school buildings that are currently under utilized. We read that enrollment in Saint Paul Middle schools is declining. The Charter and Saint Paul Public Schools could work together to help serve the middle school aged German Immersion students. This would be consistent with their stated [mission](#) and wouldn't require all students to be located in the same building. Why should the tax payers and residents of Saint Paul and specifically our Como Park neighborhood bare the brunt of poor site planning made by this charter school or any organization, private or public. We need elected leaders in Saint Paul to help find solutions that benefit both sides and help us move forward.

I've lived in Como Park for over 30 years. My daughter attended and graduated from Saint Paul Public schools in 2018. We live near the lake and close to the German Immersion School. We support school choice, but believe there is a limit to which our neighborhood should absorb the Charter School's poor site planning decisions as an excuse for demolishing a historic building that for many in Como Park

represents the legacy of a neighborhood that lived, worked and worshiped together in a building THEY built with funds THEY raised. What's surprised me most since the school announced its plan to destroy this historic building is the number of people that NEVER worshiped in the space but stood up to preserve it.

Once again, please vote to uphold the Heritage Preservation Commission's recommendation (near-unanimous 9-1 vote) to designate St. Andrew's as a local historic building.

Regards,

Margaret Hamburger
1263 West Como Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55103

From: Enrico Portuese [<mailto:eportuese@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 10:44 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: St. Andrew's

Dear Ms. Brendmoen,

My family and I were members of this church and have fond memories of it. The historical preservation of this magnificent building is critical for the neighborhood. The school's decision to tear it down would do so much harm to the community, and given it's long history of moving from place to place, Como would be left with an ugly scar. Please vote to make it a historical designation.

Sincerely,
Enrico, Louise, Tessa and Vincent Portuese

From: Carol Carey [<mailto:ccarey@historicsaintpaul.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:04 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Designation of the former Saint Andrew's Church

May 15, 2019

Dear City Council Members;

Historic Saint Paul respectfully urges you to support the designation of 1031-1051 Como (the former Saint Andrew's Catholic Church, aka Saint Andrew's) as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

Historic Saint Paul works to preserve and promote the cultural heritage, character, and vitality of Saint Paul neighborhoods. We are keenly aware

of the importance of preserving and investing into buildings that reflect the architectural and cultural history of Saint Paul.

Saint Paul is a richer, more complex and interesting city thanks to the efforts of local residents, historians, the Heritage Preservation Commission, and leaders who have worked to identify and protect historic resources that hold and tell our important stories – at times in the face of severe opposition. Saint Andrew's is a structure that deserves recognition and protection.

Saint Andrew's has a strong architectural presence in the Como neighborhood. It was designed by Charles Hausler, the first city architect for the city of Saint Paul, who left a notable legacy in Saint Paul and across the region. It is a well-designed and finely detailed example of Period Revival style churches, and according to prominent historians, one of the city's best and most distinctive examples.

Equally important is the role Saint Andrew's played as a community center for the working class community and Hungarian immigrants it served. The stories it holds are important in the understanding of the development and social history of our city. Preserving places that honor those memories serve a significant public purpose.

Saint Andrew's meets several criteria necessary to be considered eligible for local designation, and has been determined eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by our State Historic Preservation Office. The fact that past owners &/or the City of Saint Paul has not previously pursued historic designation does not diminish its significance.

Concerns have been raised that Saint Andrew's current owners do not support designation. That is unfortunate, as they are presently stewards of a truly special place. However, owner support for designation is not a requirement. In fact, significant structures and districts in Saint Paul have been designated without expressed support from property owners – and have yielded lasting and positive results for the city, representing some of its most cherished and celebrated places.

A recent example is the Victoria Theater on University Avenue. The former owner's preference was to demolish the structure and construct a parking lot. It was the most financially viable/beneficial option open to him at the time. Designation of the property helped create an environment that allowed a mutually beneficial solution to be found. It is now in the process of becoming a vital performing space that will serve the multi-cultural community in which it is located.

We ask and encourage you to give Saint Andrew's the same opportunity.

Sincerely,
Carol Carey
Executive Director

From: Nicole Walling [<mailto:ncwalling@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:15 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: TCGIS historic designation

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

5/15/2019

Dear City Council member Brendmoen,

First, thank you for your time in reading this even last minute. My two children attend the TCGIS school and it has been heartbreaking to see what has happened this past year. And now with the last minute City Pages article I feel one last perspective could be useful.

Regardless of the neighbors interpretations and emotional responses and the fact that this is a charter school with limited funds and not a developer seeking profit, there is something that I would like to share because it is similar. I will try and be concise and to the point.

My family and I live across the street from Macalester College in St. Paul Minnesota. Mac Groveland is a popular area for a multitude of reasons. We live right off of Grand Avenue, we live across from a prestigious college, and there are many historic and desirable houses in our neighborhood. Because it is a historic and highly desirable neighborhood people feel a sense of obligation to protect architecture. That being said, because Macalester College owns much of the land in this area, they can do with it what they please.

We have lived in this neighborhood for over 10 years and we have experienced during that time the tearing down of multiple buildings, leveling, of land, adding roads etc. We haven't always liked or agreed with what Macalester-Groveland has done but we understand that because they are the property owners ultimately the land is at their discretion what to do with it. There are wonderful things that Macalester College brings to the neighborhood, the city, state, and our community. And frankly, ultimately it is our choice to stay and live here.

Sometimes Macalester has consulted the neighborhood to get our opinions and feedback about the potential projects, buildings, landscaping ideas (which we appreciate them extending themselves and opening themselves up to feedback). But again we understand that ultimately it is just feedback. TCGIS also started out similarly, once there was a plan in place, by showing the neighborhood. Rather than feeling like we are doing something inclusive and considerate it blew up in the schools face.

Consistently these facts have been ignored:

The school genuinely tried to see if the could afford to restore the church. The school has genuinely looked at reusing AND tried to incorporate the church. The school has looked seriously at relocating.

Ultimately I cannot fathom that idea if this historic designation passes, that it will be a possibility for anybody living in the city, or even outside the city, could at whim try to designate any old building as a historic site in Saint Paul (especially if they don't like or approve what someone is doing with it).

End note: What is ironic to me throughout this whole situation is the fact that if this church does get historically designated the school cannot afford to fix it and preserve it then: **The church won't be saved.**

If there is historic designation school will be stuck with trying to then sell the building. It is difficult to foresee a buyer willing and able to take on historic preservation then: **The church won't be saved.**

If the school is forced to simply close because it will be financially stuck, I do believe this will be the beginning of the end of the school, then again: **The church won't be saved.**

Is this really a situation of people thinking that in their generation the building will simply "survive" long enough that they get what they want and won't have to worry about it?

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Nicole Walling

83 Cambridge Street
Saint Paul, MN 55105

From: Paul Nelson [<mailto:ashland1661@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 11:36 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: St. Andrews

Dear council members,

I hope you have visited the site. If you have, I think you have seen that that building is the visual heart of that neighborhood. To replace it with a gymnasium would be a profound devaluation of the visual landscape.

May I refer you to Chapter 74 of the city code?

"The council . . . hereby declares **as a matter of public policy** that the preservation, protection, perpetuation . . . and use of . . . buildings . . . having a special historical, community, or aesthetic interest or

value is a **public necessity and is required** in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the people."

I think you will agree that "public necessity" is very strong language and should guide your vote.

That should be enough, but let me add . . . Since January I have been a member of the St. Paul HPC. I have been told by staff there that the German immersion school leadership has acted consistently in bad faith throughout the process; that good alternatives have been offered, and every compromise rejected.

Please ask yourselves what assurance you have that the German immersion school will be there ten, fifteen, twenty years from now. The beautiful thing they wish to destroy will be gone forever, replaced by a gymnasium (which will not be beautiful) that no doubt will be built on the cheap, as almost all gymnasiums are.

Cheers,

Paul Nelson
1661 Ashland
Ward Four

From: Melissa Malen [<mailto:melissamalen@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 12:23 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Vote Yes for St. Andrews

In support of Ron and Patti Rud, many Como neighbors, building preservation practice, efficient use of existing buildings and tax payer dollars, I am requesting that you vote yes to add St. Andrews church to the historic registry.

Please respond with notice of how you vote on this item.

Sincerely,
Dr. Melissa Malen

Homeowner: Hillcrest Ave., 55116
Office: 1595 Selby Ave, #209, 55104
Condo owner: 370 Marshall, #401, 55102

St. Paul City Council
Members of the Council

Date: May 15, 2019 City Council Meeting

RE: **Designation of St. Andrews Church as a St. Paul Heritage Preservation site**

I am voicing my support for saving St. Andrews Church. My grandparents were members of the church (1930s through 1990s), my father and his three siblings attended grade school there, and my grandfather (Douglas Mentes) and his family were one of the early Hungarian families that helped found the church. My family has lived in Como Park from the early 1900s until just recently when my uncle sold my grandmother's house on Barrett St. (the NE corner of Front Avenue across from Cavalry Cemetery). My wife, 2 kids and I live nearby in Roseville and have considered returning to Como Park. Schooling was a big reason why we decided to live in Roseville – St. Paul schools are under-funded, and we refused to rely on a lottery system for our kids' education – a lottery we likely would have lost. We still spend a significant amount of time in the Como Park neighborhood.

There is clear support from the surrounding neighborhood for keeping the historic landmark church intact. TCGIS complains that this support has come late, but when the school purchased the church only a few years ago, they did not notify anyone of their plans to demolish the church. If TCGIS had made their plans known when it purchased the church, the neighborhood would have voiced their opposition at that time. Instead, TCGIS has made their plans known only recently, and likely had no plans to demolish the church when it was purchased. This is a problem of the school's own doing.

TCGIS is not a neighborhood school, instead serving communities well outside the school's surrounding area. The numbers provided by the school state that ½ (perhaps more) of the student enrollment live outside St. Paul, and only 50 kids (at best) out of nearly 600, reside in the surrounding neighborhood. This school could be located anywhere else in St. Paul or inner-ring St. Paul suburb, it has no ties to the Como Park neighborhood. Demolishing the school will sever ties many people have to Como Park, including my family's.

There must be dozens of similar parcels the school can relocate to that would not involve completely demolishing an historic neighborhood landmark. Another school could locate in the church buildings, that better serves the surrounding neighborhood by drawing a higher percentage of children from the neighborhood. Plus, another school might show more concern for the residents of the neighborhood, something that is lacking from TCGIS. TCGIS relies on tax-payer funding, which means they lose nothing by relocating their school.

Finally, demolition lasts forever. Your decision could forever destroy a historic neighborhood landmark – a landmark that ties hundreds (if not more) people to this neighborhood. The building has been designated a historic landmark by those with much more knowledge than any council member or school official. The opinions of the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission must be respected. Thank you.

Douglas Mentes
1989 Skillman Avenue West
Roseville, MN 55113
(612) 385-9028 (cell)

From: Ted Anderson [<mailto:tanderson@tcgis.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:31 PM

To: pkotz@citypages.com

Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; <board@tcgis.org> <board@tcgis.org>

Subject: Twin Cities German Immersion School in CP, 5/15/19

Dear City Pages Editor,

I was disappointed by your May 15, 2019 (today's) article concerning our school, but not because of the publicized e-mails. I stand by the integrity and intent of our team, which remains focused on the difficult task of educating kids to be good world citizens. Furthermore, we are a public school and I support the public's right to access such information. Rather, my disappointment stems from the tone of the article, and the fact that the critical journalistic lens appears to have been pointed in only one direction. That is unfortunate, because it denies your readership information it needs to reach a truly informed opinion about this important issue.

TCGIS' building project is driven by a need to provide safe, functional and appropriate educational space for its teachers and its students. TCGIS has adaptively reused the space, which it acquired with no "historical preservation" strings attached, for six years. But it can no longer meet TCGIS' needs. TCGIS has now determined, after two years of investigation into numerous options—many of which included preserving the former church building—that the only viable option requires replacing the former church building with a purpose-built structure that will provide six additional classrooms, a regulation gym that can simultaneously accommodate two classes, a cafeteria with natural light, and dedicated special education space so children do not need to receive instruction in hallways and public spaces. The project would also create additional green space in the neighborhood, would include space for public art installations, and would reduce TCGIS' carbon footprint.

The activist group opposing TCGIS' project has refused to acknowledge TCGIS' educational mission or its financial constraints. In more than a year, the group has failed to put forward any proposed alternative that would meet TCGIS' educational needs and stay within TCGIS' budget. Neither is a secret, as TCGIS has shared its needs with the community, and TCGIS' financials are available online. Furthermore, the group has been unwilling to compromise — it has refused to consider any proposal that does not preserve the former church building in its entirety. As one member put it, "Until demolition is off the table we see no value in further meeting with TCGIS." Instead, the activist group has been content to act as a roadblock, brazenly insisting that TCGIS preserve a building it owns but no longer wants, and that TCGIS use taxpayer dollars that are intended for educating kids to do it.

The activist group's position also stands in contrast to that expressed by the broader community. In a meeting attended by nearly 200 residents, District 10 (the Community

Council representing the Como Park neighborhood) voted to support the three variances TCGIS needs to remove the former church building, and to replace it with a purpose-built facility. In addition, numerous residents have penned letters to the City opposing historic designation and supporting TCGIS' variance requests. Thus, it is wrong to imply that this group's position is representative of the neighborhood as a whole.

TCGIS is confident that the City Council will see the benefit that comes from providing adequate educational spaces for Saint Paul kids, and will reject the activist group's self-interested arguments. TCGIS is simply asking the City Council to affirm the decision it made six years ago, when it supported TCGIS' move to the Como neighborhood and issued \$8.2 million in bonds so that TCGIS could purchase its current property, with no restrictions on its development rights. The current building project seeks to leverage those development rights to construct a facility that will benefit Saint Paul kids generations to come.

The following letter was sent to the City of St. Paul City Council on our behalf in preparation for the May 15th hearing. It fills in many of the blanks left out of your article.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b198e03ee1759f2bea1054e/t/5cdaf69cee6eb025aa6596b1/1557853869338/11737642-v1-2019-05-10+Letter+to+St.+Paul+City+Council.pdf>

Sincerely,

Ted Anderson, Executive Director, Twin Cities German Immersion School

Cc: St Paul City Council members

Ted Anderson
Executive Director
Twin Cities German Immersion School
1031 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103

From: Quentin Nguyen <quentingnguyen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:38 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: National Historic Designation-Please hear our voices

Hello Mr. Thao!

My name is Quentin Nguyen, a Como neighborhood resident. As a new generation of immigrants living in the beautiful and historic Como neighborhood, I resonate with the founding immigrants who built the historic landmark, former church building St. Andrew's. Through this building, I was able to learn and appreciate a part of the value of history, and culture of our beloved city of St. Paul.

I'm in favor of historic designation for St. Andrew's, eligible for both local and national historic designation.

Greatly appreciated

Quentin Nguyen
1101 Hoyt Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55108

From: scot nortrom [<mailto:scotnortrom@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:39 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Preservation of St. Andrews

Dear City Council Board Members,

As a parent of children in St Paul public schools and as a friend of parents with children at TCGIS, I strongly urge you to consider the long-term consequences of allowing demolition of the St. Andrew's Church building, currently owned by the German Immersion School ... and vote against it. I support preservation of the Historic Saint Andrew's Church building as a valuable long-term cultural asset of our community.

Sincerely,
Scot Nortrom
1910 Berkeley Avenue
St Paul

From: Linda Warner <onethriftychic58@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 10:51 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: St Andrews/German Immersion

Dear Councilman Thao,

Please vote no on the vote to allow the German Immersion School to destroy St Andrews Church building. I live in this neighborhood and reject the idea that they need to destroy such a beautiful, important and historic building for a new gym. I am against such a waste of taxpayer money!

Sincerely,
Linda Warner

As a 12 year resident of Ward 4, I am writing to request that you vote against the historic designation of the former Church of Saint Andrew's. It was not considered to be historic in past studies when it was an active parish. Now that it has been desanctified, reconfigured, and repurposed, it is ridiculous to consider historic designation. The only part of the structure that the Catholic Church deemed necessary to preserve was the stained glass.

This school means so much to my family and to all people who go there. My kids are getting the opportunity to learn about their cultural heritage through language and are learning what it means to be a global citizen, which is critical to combat resurgence of nationalism.

So many important points have been made by the school administration, other parents, and neighbors and I don't want to take up your time by reiterating them. However, there is a packet from November 5th, 2018 which I was able to download the day of the hearing, but has since become difficult to find on the HPC website. This is important because it contains over 190 letters opposing designation and fewer than 10 supporting designation. This fact, along with passing of the school's variances by residents of District 10 with over 200 people in attendance, clearly shows that there is public support for demolition of the old building and the construction of a purpose built, ecologically friendly addition to the school.

I thank you for taking the time to consider this multi faceted issue.

Sincerely,
Katherine Krantz

Councilpersons

I ask each of you to consider the volume and exactitude of research into the history of the St Andrew's church and the significance that the structure holds for the history of St Paul, the immigrant communities that settled in this part of the city and for the Warrendale/Como neighborhood at large. I have heard arguments both for and against historic designation and believe that the designation of the former St Andrew's church as a significant and historic structure will serve all the people of St Paul well in the long term. Recent immigrants into the city may find themselves in a similar situation in the future, where they are at risk of losing a part of their story to culture blind development. The designation of this structure as a historic building will set a precedent for future preservation efforts. I encourage you to vote for historic status for this site.

Thank You for your attention to this letter
and
Thank You for your service to the citizens of Saint Paul

Maren Swenson

Muriel R. Gubasta
5662 Brandlwood Court
St. Paul, MN 55110

May 15, 2019

Amy Brendmoen
St. Paul City Council President
Ward 5
St. Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: May 15, 2019 public hearing to determine the eligibility of the former St. Andrew's church building as a local heritage preservation site.

Dear Council President Brendmoen:

From 1880 to about 1920 millions of new immigrants poured into the cities of America. Although they differed in their ethnicity, religious beliefs, and expectations of life in the New World, they all faced similar challenges during their first days, weeks, and years in North America. Yet, that did not stop them from building new lives filled with opportunities unavailable in their homelands.

My family has been in the Como Park neighborhood since approximately 1900. It was around that time that my paternal great grandparents, Coleman and Justina Horvath, emigrated from Hungary to St. Paul, Minnesota and settled in Como Park. Since 1903 until 2011 my family had been parishioners of St. Andrew's Church. Coleman Horvath, like many Hungarians who made their new homes in St. Paul's Como Park, monthly contributed money to the building of the new St. Andrew's Church building on Como Avenue (1926-1927).

Coleman and Justina were married in 1908 in the first St. Andrew's Church, which was located near Argyle and Hatch in St. Paul. They celebrated their 50th

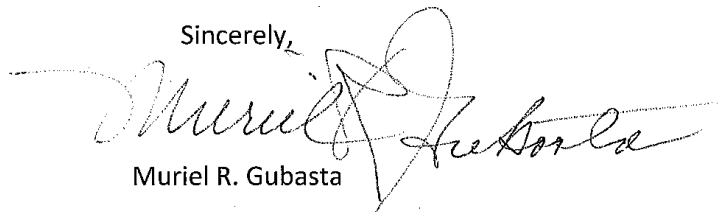
wedding anniversary at the St. Andrew's Church on Como Avenue. All six of their children attended St. Andrew's School and were parishioners; their oldest child, Gizella, my paternal grandmother, was in the first, First Communion Celebration at St. Andrew's Church. Gizella's children, John Gubasta, Jr. (my father) and his sister Dolores Gubasta were parishioners and attended St. Andrew's Catholic Grade School. My siblings and I were the fourth generation to attend the school and be St. Andrew's parishioners and my nephew, Evan, was the fifth generation to do so.

There are several hundred other family stories that are similar to mine. Families of German, French, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Greek, and Spanish heritage (to name a few) who fused their spiritual and social lives in Church of St. Andrew and its school. Even though many of those preceding generations have moved on, it does not mean St. Andrew's Church building no longer has historic and cultural value. To raze St. Andrew's Church building is to destroy the rich, historic and cultural identity of this beautiful Como Park neighborhood.

Charles A. Hausler, St. Paul's first city architect in 1914, designed the St. Andrew Church building. It represents a distinctive example of the Romanesque Revival Style, which was inspired by Romanesque churches built in southern France and northern Italy. For newly arrived immigrants to the United States, like my paternal great grandparents, St. Andrew's Church building represented the courage and the strength of the human spirit to endure great hardships to reach the shores of their new country, struggling to win acceptance in the New World while retaining the unique habits, customs, and beliefs that today contribute to our shared identity.

On behalf of the Gubasta and Horvath families, I strongly implore the St. Paul City Council to heed St. Paul's Historic Preservation Commission recommendation to designate St. Andrew's Church building a local heritage preservation site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Muriel R. Gubasta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Muriel R. Gubasta