

From: Sherri Buss
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 8:26 PM
To: McMonigal-St Dennis, Barb (CI-StPaul)
Subject: public hearing for Michels Corp Sewer Lining Project

St. Paul City Council:

We are writing to ask you to reject the request from Michels Corp to exceed the City's sound levels, particularly during night time hours during April 11-12.

There is a reason for the MPCA sound standards that the City has adopted--they protect the health and welfare of city residents. The level and duration of noise that the contractor is proposing, particularly during over-night hours, is unreasonable given the thousands of people in nearby apartments and condos such as ours that will be impacted by the noise and unable to sleep. What they are asking to do amounts to torture, by denying normal sleep hours, and exceeding noise standards for more than 30 straight hours. This is not a neighborhood where a few people immediately adjacent to the street will be affected--there are hundreds of units and thousands of people adjacent to the proposed work area.

Such exceptions that negatively impact so many people should only be granted in the case of a genuine emergency when lives and a significant number of properties are threatened. This request is purely for the convenience of the contractor, and probably to save a few dollars. It will set a very bad precedent that will encourage similar night time work throughout the project whenever the contractor is behind schedule or budget. We lived through 3 years of jack-hammering, back-up beepers, and other overnight work during the light rail construction, and it was hellish.

The Jackson Street project is a mess. A project estimated at \$8 million by Public Works staff is suddenly estimated to cost \$16 million. The potential costs and difference in estimates are a joke among public works professionals throughout the Metro Area. Any other Public Works Department in this region would be re-assessing the scope of this project, and reviewing the skills and knowledge of its staff, consultants and contractors before getting in deeper. This project should be stopped for a year for a thorough review and reconsideration of the project scope and costs, and to reduce it in size to fit the budget. The rationality of a 2-way bike lane on Jackson Street competing with the parking garage exits should be reconsidered, and a new, better route identified that serves bicyclist and driver needs better--such as Sibley Street. With so many streets needing work in St. Paul, we question the rationality of devoting this level of resources to Jackson Street.

Please don't start this project by ignoring the health and welfare of the thousands of residents in condos and apartments along Jackson Street. We will suffer plenty throughout the summer as you allow the contractors to work until 10 each night right below our bedroom windows. No other City would permit such work adjacent to residences past 7 p.m., and St. Paul should have that same level of decency, respect and care for its residents.

Sherri Buss & Jeff Clowes
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St. Paul