

Summit Hill Association

District 16 Planning Council
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July 13, 2017

Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
Saint Paul City Council
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Suite 310B
St. Paul, MN 55102
RE: Coordinated Collection

Sent by Email

Dear Councilmember Noecker;

Our comment for the public hearing on July 19 on coordinated collection is not around the initiative, itself, since we did not receive sufficient notice of the hearing nor of the substance of the proposal in time to react in a manner which would allow informed and thoughtful comment by our board, much less the community.

Instead, we are protesting how this has been handled. After months of hearing nothing but updates of meeting schedules on this matter, on July 10 our executive director was copied on an email from Department of Public Works staff stating that a tentative agreement had been reached and a public hearing was being scheduled for July 19—less than 10 days away. No substantive information was shared, nor did we see anything with any program details until an article in the Pioneer Press appeared on July 12. While providing more information than the July 10 email, it failed to answer the many questions and concerns we know Summit Hill residents will have regarding this initiative, especially in light of the disastrous implementation of the new recycling program earlier this year which resulted in scores of calls and visits to our office by frustrated and angry community members.

We are mystified and unhappy about how this is apparently being rammed through without adequate public information and time for public comment. As noted in an earlier email in which you and your aide were copied, as a district council we would normally organize and support a comprehensive program involving district-wide public information—including a Q and A from City staff—and solicitation of public comment through our Zoning and Land Use Committee. The Summit Hill Association board would then act on the ZLU Committee's recommendation in a vote which would reflect the input of our broader community.

We have done the best we can in the time available to circulate the information—however inadequate—about this public hearing to our residents, and anticipate receiving many calls in the months to come which we will refer to your office and Public Works staff to address. You are doing a great disservice to the district councils and St. Paul citizens in not allowing adequate time and opportunity to learn about this initiative and how it will affect them, much less the public comment period a program such as this deserves, given the major, permanent impact it will surely have.

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We ask that you extend the public comment period to allow district councils such as ours to do our jobs in a responsible and thorough manner, and for citizens to have enough time to learn how this initiative will affect them and have a real voice in expressing their questions and concerns.

Yours truly,



Andrew Rorvig
President
Summit Hill Association District 16 Planning Council

cc: Katie Burger, City Council Executive Assistant
Taina Maki, Ward 2 Legislative Aide
Monica Haas, Executive Director, Summit Hill Association