



August 12, 2015

Council President Russ Stark
Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd W. 310-D
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Council President Stark,

The Midway Chamber of Commerce aims to "Build a Stronger Midway," which can be fulfilled in many ways. In addition to a strong business community, it also means having a strong parks system. Fortunately, Saint Paul is already recognized as one of the best in the nation, as was evidenced recently by Saint Paul and Minneapolis tying for the number one parks system by the Trust for Public Land. A strong factor in that ranking is the large number of acres devoted to parkland in Saint Paul, as over 20% of our city's land is designated as either park or natural areas. Compared to other cities of similar population density, this number is almost twice the median amount.

While we strongly believe in having a great parks system, it is also important to have a strong business community, including a desire to expand and relocate within the city boundaries. The Midway Chamber believes the current balance is fair, and the proposal for an increased parkland dedication requirement will put Saint Paul at a competitive disadvantage. We ask you to oppose the proposed 12% dedication.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carl K. S." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Midway Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

cc: Members of the Saint Paul City Council