

Dear Friends and Neighbors at River Park Lofts:

I think you should know what our City Council may do that may probably damage the quality of life and our rights to peace for our homes. Frederic Melo of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* recently advised the following.....

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on the expansion of the sidewalk on the north side of Sixth Street from Wacouta to Sibley Streets at a public hearing at the City Council Chambers starting at

**5:30 PM, Wednesday, January 2,
2013**

According the City's web site....the official words outlining this event are:

***RES PH 12-214 Final Order approving the improvements on the north side of East Sixth Street between Sibley Street and Wacouta Street (File No. S1202). (Public hearing continued from October 17)
Sponsors: Thune***

If you are not aware of this issue, a proposal exists whereby the sidewalk on the north side of Sixth Street between Wacouta and Sibley Streets will be expanded by at least one driving lane; thus, Sixth Street is to be just three lanes or less only for only that one block. I understand that the local bars will have outdoor seating. The parking meters on the south side of Sixth Street (next to Mears Park) are to be removed and the bus stop in front of the Railroad Printing Building or is it the Park Square Court Building may be move to be in front of River Park Lofts. Finally, I cannot intelligently discuss who pays for all these "improvements"....I only hope we taxpayers will have to pay these dollars.

- We believe that the expansion of the sidewalk is a terrible waste of our taxes.**

- **The expanded bars will promote more noise, more disruptions in our residential community. Our home is immediately across the street from the corner of Sixth and Wacouta, and we have seen seen at midnight and later, drunks, fights, many police cars, and many disturbances of our peace. Our area is a residential community. I recall even seeing several young girls crawling on their hands and knees in the gutter on Wacouta Street. Over the years, the situation has become so bad that I have placed the non-emergency number of the Police Department on speed dial.**
- **The loss of parking and the lost income from the meters must be included in any decision-making.**
- **Sixth Street is a major connector between west bound I-94 and Lowertown. We question the analysis of the interrupted traffic flow that will be caused by the "taking of a traffic lane".**
- **The Fire Department and other emergency vehicles use west bound Sixth Street to enter the other areas of the downtown. Will the expansion be good or bad?**
- **Will the expansion be good or bad for the quality of life at Mears Park.**

With an extremely short advanced notice, the City's Planning Commission held a meeting last Friday (Dec. 28) to discuss this proposal. One or more commissioners were troubled by this late scheduled meeting on the last Friday of the year. The Commission rejected the proposal and then, with a second vote, agreed to forward the proposal to the City Council without any recommendation.

Without the help of Frederic Melo of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, I would not have any knowledge that the City Council would be holding any public hearing about the proposed sidewalk on Sixth Street tomorrow at 5:30 PM. Furthermore, I have had zero knowledge about the October 17th hearing nor do I know of any of our neighbors who were aware of the October hearing. I viewed the video of that hearing and understand that nobody spoke at that event.

Efforts to divert public knowledge of difficult questions seem shameful. Any actions to hide any meaningful discussion of this immediate issue of the expansion of the sidewalk is repugnant.

I will attend the hearing and will speak my piece. This means I will have interrupt my participation in our dinner celebration of the safe arrival of our granddaughter and her friend plus parents from their trip to Israel. Grandma will have to continue without me.

While this email will go to you, the Cc's will include all the members of the City Council, the Planning Commission, the media, a major person with the Friends of Mears Park, plus a few friends, and our building manager.

I encourage all to distribute this email far and wide.

Sincerely,

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