



Friends of Warrendale - Save Historic St. Andrews LLC

Petition to City Council: <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-historic-st-andrews-in-como-park.html>

February 14, 2019

City Council President Brendmoen:

Save Historic Saint Andrews (SHSA), a grassroots coalition, recently held a fundraising event. Included in this packet are signed letters from your constituents, and an article published by the Progressive, "The Charter School Next Door, What Happens When Pubic Education Becomes a Marketplace?" Also included are letters from the St. Paul chapter of the NAACP and SPFT opposing the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS).

TCGIS attempts to frame the conflict as one of historic preservation vs. the educational needs of students. Claiming what is happening as being "for the kids" is far more palatable than acknowledging a charter school seeking to expand its campus while ignoring concerns of the surrounding community. We are not against TCGIS educating children. We are rallying to oppose the school administration's choice to expand and demolish Saint Andrew's, which we find disrespectful and harmful to the health and history of a storied St. Paul neighborhood. Saint Paul's own comprehensive plan states that the greenest building is the one left standing. Demolition is not consistent with Mayor Carter's initiative to become a carbon-neutral community by 2050.

We are concerned that charters schools are exempt from anti-segregation laws. We can no longer ignore this. The Saint Paul chapter of the NAACP states "*expansion of such a predominantly white and relatively wealthy charter school in the heart of the city would frustrate efforts to desegregate St. Paul schools and contribute to further racial and socioeconomic segregation*". TCGIS planned expansion is not in alignment with Mayor Carter's administration value of equity and inclusivity.

TCGIS intends to tear down a building of historic and cultural significance because it is unwilling to cap its enrollment at 550 students, the number projected by TCGIS in 2013. TCGIS has refused to consider less expensive alternatives that would repurpose the former church into a far-more usable educational space than it currently provides.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Youngquist



Dolores Rufenacht (left) and Anna Mosser are fighting to keep St. Andrew's Church from being razed to accommodate the expansion of a charter school in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Charter School Next Door

What Happens When Public Education Becomes a Marketplace?

BY SARAH LAHM

Community activism is nothing new for Dolores Rufenacht. The St. Paul resident has lived in the same neighborhood, in the shadow of the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, since 1977. Since then, she has fought her share of battles—for a playground in danger of being overrun by drug dealers; for green space the city was neglecting in nearby Como Park; and now, for a Catholic church building that is on the brink of being torn down.

Sarah Lahm is a writer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her writing has appeared in local and national publications, including The Progressive and In These Times.

The church in question is St. Andrew's. Built in 1927 in the Romanesque Revival style, the brown brick church boasts an impressive, multicolored terra-cotta tile roof and a handsome bell tower. From the street, it looks alive and well kept, although Mass hasn't been celebrated there since 2011.

Back then, the shrinking parish was merged with another one nearby while the building sat in limbo for two years. In 2013, the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a growing charter school in search of a permanent home, began leasing the church building and its accompanying school site by taking on \$8 million in construction and real-estate debt.

Now, just six years later, the school wants to tear St. Andrew's Church down and build a new school building on the same site for more than \$6 million. School representatives say it would be too costly to move and that a new building would better accommodate its growing student body. Rufenacht, a former parishioner at St. Andrew's, is part of a group of neighbors working to block the demolition of the church building, at least for now.

"We were happy when Twin Cities German Immersion School bought the building because they acted like they loved our church," Rufenacht recalls in an interview. But then, she says, trouble set in. "The school grew and grew and grew. They had a fast growth plan. I don't mind the growth, but they have to grow someplace else."

What is happening in St. Paul illustrates some of the larger tensions around the proliferation of charter schools, which have long been key on the agenda of antigovernment conservatives, including Betsy DeVos, President Donald Trump's controversial Secretary of Education, and liberals like Senator Cory Booker, who allowed for a massive charter takeover of public schools as mayor of Newark, New Jersey.

The nation's first charter school opened in St. Paul in 1992. Since then, the charter school sector, as it is often called, has spread to forty-three more states, as well as the District of Columbia. Charter schools are funded with federal and state public education dollars but operate separately from traditional school districts.

Supporters say this gives charter schools the freedom to innovate and serve students whose needs are not met by larger school systems. Detractors say this allows public money to flow to private hands with little oversight. Wealthy philanthropic organizations, such as the Walton Family Foundation of Walmart fame, have invested billions to support the spread of charter schools, most of which are nonunion.

Today, more than three million students in grades K-12 are enrolled in close to 7,000 charters. While this accounts for slightly more than 5 percent of all public school students in the United States, it represents a dramatic increase over the past decade. Now, communities like Rufenacht's are scrambling to figure out what to do when an expanding charter school comes knocking.

"I am not anti child or anti school," says Erin Dooley, a neighbor of Rufenacht's who is also working to block the Twin Cities German Immersion School from tearing down St. Andrew's Church. "But there has been an undercurrent of frustration here. We have been characterized as NIMBYs but nothing could be further from the truth."

The rapid expansion of charter schools is largely an urban problem. More than 80 percent of all charters in the United States are located in metropolitan areas, where real estate prices are higher and school sites harder to come by, and where longstanding issues regarding housing and school segregation remain potent.

Charter schools, by design, are not neighborhood schools. They are program-driven alternatives that are first drawn out on paper and then approved by a state agency. Once they start attracting students, they can hunt for a building to work in, although a small percentage of charter schools exist only online.

The potential disconnect between school and neighborhood caught the eye of longtime community school advocate Martin Blank, in 2016. In an article for the online journal Shelterforce, Blank raised a pointed question: "What responsibility do public

'Charter schools—with some notable exceptions—focus on individual students, seeing their neighborhoods as something to overcome rather than strengthen.'

charter schools have to the neighborhoods where they are located?"

In cities like Washington, D.C., he noted, where almost half of all school-age kids attend charters, students are "scattered" about the city, living in one neighborhood but traveling to a different one for school.

"Americans typically see public schools as part of their neighborhood's fabric," Blank wrote, as well as "among the places where our society nurtures social capital." But, as neighbors such as Rufenacht and Dooley are experiencing in St. Paul, "charter schools—with some notable exceptions—focus on individual students, seeing their neighborhoods as something to overcome rather than strengthen."

When it comes to the Twin Cities German Immersion School, Anna Mosser would likely agree with this sentiment. She moved to her Como Park neighborhood home in 2012, and the Twin Cities German Immersion School moved close by, to the St. Andrew's site, one year later. At first, she was pleased. "I thought it was neat that the school was using the sanctuary of the old church as their gym," she recalls, noting that many residents think of the St. Andrew's building as a neighborhood anchor.

Before long, however, Mosser realized that having a fast-growing charter school just down the block was going to cause problems. The Twin Cities German Immersion School "will never be a neighborhood school," she says, "because they have a lottery enrollment ap-

plication system to follow. There is no neighborhood preference given.”

With the school growing every year, from about 320 students in 2012-2013 to more than 500 in 2016-2017, tensions have arisen between neighbors and the school community. School officials have said that their goal is to cap out at around 650 students in grades K-8.

“Even in the first year of them moving in,” Mosser says, “there were problems with traffic and a lack of on-site parking. It is scary, honestly. Most kids come by car, and there are kids and parents walking all over the place, whipping around school buses and cars.”

Twin Cities German Immersion School parent and board chair, Kelly Laudon, argues however that, thanks to the school, “life has come back” to Mosser’s Como Park neighborhood. “It has been a positive for property values,” she insists, noting that the church and its school building had not been fully in use for years before the Twin Cities German Immersion School moved in.

For Nick Faber, president of the St. Paul Federation of Educators, the problems with charter schools like the Twin Cities German Immersion School go beyond traffic congestion or even the destruction of neighborhood landmarks. For one thing, there is the basic concept of school choice.

“There is a mindset, represented in part by charter schools, that competition will breed excellence,” Faber notes. “In this model, schools are forced to compete against each other for students and resources.” This is a problem for families, he insists, who are under an “unfair amount of pressure” to make the right choice for their kids.

“We have lost our collective vision,” he believes. As competition from the city’s more than two dozen charter schools grows, the St. Paul public school system is “bleeding students and funds,” he says. “We have half-full buildings that are in danger of closing or being sold.”

Faber’s point was backed up by a December 2018 article in the *Twin Cities Pioneer Press*. “Enrollment falls again in St. Paul Public Schools,” warned the headline, “and district officials are concerned.” About 60 percent of the city’s school age kids attend St. Paul public schools, the article states, while close to 20 percent go to charters. The rest are split between private schools and other options, including the opportunity to open-enroll into neighboring districts.

When students leave the district, they take their per-pupil funding dollars with them. This requires districts to then do more with less as costs for things such as building maintenance do not necessarily decrease when student enrollment numbers dip.



The neighbors of St. Andrew’s constructed a “wall of protest” near the church.

This situation is not unique to St. Paul. In 2018, education reporter Matt Barnum wrote about the impact of charter schools and choice on school districts for Chalkbeat, an education news site. His piece covered a recent study from Duke University, where researchers studied how much the expansion of charter schools cut into existing districts and their finances.

The researchers, Helen Ladd of Duke University and John Singleton of the University of Rochester, wrote that charter schools “may expand choice for some students while imposing costs on taxpayers and students [who] remain in district schools.” The exact impact is tough to document but came out to hundreds of dollars per student for the six districts they studied.

But money isn’t the reason the St. Paul NAACP opposed the proposed expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion School. Instead, it is segregation. The group, in a statement issued on December 19, 2018, cited the national NAACP’s 2016 call for a moratorium on the expansion of charter schools and argued that allowing the Twin Cities German Immersion School to grow further would “exacerbate the racial and economic segregation in the St. Paul schools.”

The Twin Cities German Immersion School is almost 90 percent white, the NAACP statement noted, while just 7 percent of its students live in poverty, as defined by federal guidelines. That represents a sharp difference from the student population at Como Park Elementary, a neighborhood school in the St. Paul system that sits just one mile away from the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

At Como Park Elementary, only 10 percent of its nearly 500 students are white and the majority live in poverty.

In 2017, the Associated Press documented the problem of segregation and charter schools.

“National enrollment data shows that charters are vastly over-represented among schools where minorities study in the most extreme racial isolation,” the news service found, before noting that this often leads to poor academic outcomes for these students. What the report didn’t touch on was the concept of white flight and the way public dollars are being used to fund majority white charter schools in otherwise diverse areas.

The Hechinger Report, an education news source, did cover white flight charter schools in 2018. With the help of an investigative journalism grant, reporter Emmanuel Felton found that “there are at least 747 public charter schools around the country that enroll a higher percentage of white students than any of the

traditional public schools in the school districts where they are located.”

Felton further documents how little segregation has factored into the push to expand charter schools in the United States. “The federal government,” he says, “has played a role in the growth of these charters by granting charter startup grants to schools without considering whether they will lead to increased segregation.”

In Minnesota, this problem is made worse by the fact that it is the only state in the country where charter schools do not have to follow the same desegregation rules as traditional public schools. Public schools within school districts have to attempt to avoid a concentration of racially and economically isolated students while privately run, publicly funded charter schools do not.

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The justification for this exemption in Minnesota is that charter schools represent choice, and segregation by choice is different from segregation by law. School choice advocates have argued that independently run charter schools that cater to niche populations, whether it is Hmong, African American, or white, perhaps, should exist because they represent innovation and choice for families.

A lawsuit to address this is currently moving through the Minnesota court system, with the plaintiffs arguing that their rights are not being met in a system that is still largely segregated. Laudon, school board chair for Twin Cities German Immersion School, said in an interview that the school “would be in favor of changing state integration laws around charter schools.”

Meanwhile, the fate of St. Andrew’s Church is yet to be decided. Rufenacht, Dooley, Mosser, and several of their neighbors have organized to try to save the church from being razed. When they realized, thanks to a neighborhood newsletter, that the school was planning to reduce the church to rubble and build a new, three-story building in its place, they banded together in a group called Save Historic St. Andrew’s.

Mosser remembers back to 2017, when St. Paul Public Schools engaged the community in a lengthy planning process over a building project at nearby Como Park Senior High.

Today, she says, it’s a different story. “The Twin Cities German Immersion School created a website about their plans after they had been finalized.” ♦



SAINT PAUL NAACP
Roy Wilkins Memorial Branch
270 North Kent Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

***St. Paul NAACP Statement
Concerning the Proposed Expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion Charter School
December 19, 2018***

The St. Paul NAACP issues this statement in opposition to the proposed expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion Charter School ("TCGIS"), because we believe that it will exacerbate the racial and socioeconomic segregation in the St. Paul schools.

In July 2016, during the 107th National Convention, delegates of the National NAACP unanimously passed a Resolution calling for a moratorium on charter school expansion. The NAACP National Board of Directors formally ratified the Resolution on October 15, 2016. As the text of that resolution states, one of the primary concerns that the National NAACP was addressing was that "charter schools have contributed to the increased segregation rather than diverse integration of our public school system."

The potential expansion of TCGIS is the type of charter school expansion that the NAACP Resolution specifically addresses. According to the Minnesota Department of Education, TCGIS' student population is 87% white, 13% students of color, and only 7% low-income (qualifying for free-or-reduced-price lunch). In stark contrast, the surrounding school district, St. Paul Public Schools, is 21% white, 79% students of color, and 68% low-income. Expansion of such a predominantly white and relatively wealthy charter school in the heart of the city would frustrate efforts to desegregate St. Paul schools and contribute to further racial and socioeconomic segregation.

The concerns of local educational policy are highly germane to the decision-making of any city governmental body. Racial and socioeconomic segregation in our schools is the responsibility of all government officials to eradicate, and it is certainly their obligation to avoid any decision to make things worse. Education has a special place in our society. The Minnesota State Constitution singles out education to receive special protection and requires unique obligations by the state to provide an adequate education to all students. Courts since *Brown v. Board of Education* have found that segregated education is both unconstitutional and immoral. We strongly urge the Planning Commission and all other city officials involved to reject the proposed expansion and prevent further segregation of our schools.

About the St. Paul NAACP

The St. Paul NAACP is part of a national network of more than 2,400 branches of the NAACP covering all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has more than 500,000 members in the United States and overseas. The mission of the NAACP and its state and local affiliates is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons, and to protect constitutional rights. The St. Paul NAACP is the local unit of the NAACP comprising members within St. Paul.



Saint Paul Federation of Teachers

Organizing for Excellence

Teach • Lead • Inspire • Hope • Advocate • Agitate • Organize • Join.

Elected Officials,

The families and citizens of Saint Paul deserve a strong public school system that takes into account the needs and desires of its community and is led by those that can be held accountable for decisions made within that system. Saint Paul Public Schools is such a system. There is an elected board who approves decisions made by a Superintendent who they hire and supervise. As such, our district, as it has moved forward with its facilities expansion spent countless hours and took input from thousands of stakeholders in the community. Have things been perfect? No. Have there been “bumps in the road”? Yes. But the public had input. This is how public schools work: input from and accountability to the public it serves.

In contrast, the German Immersion School had very little conversation with the community in which it is expanding until March of last year—once the plans were already created.

A public school system embraces the diversity that its community offers. It sees that diversity—the many languages, races, cultures and religions—as a strength of its system. That diversity is what makes the Saint Paul Public School experience so rich for our students. Our students leave ready to work with any and all individuals in Saint Paul. Our public school district, like our city, has over 100 different languages and dialects spoken. Our public school district serves families who settle in Minnesota from all over the globe. Our public school district is 79% students of color and 68% students living in poverty. We don't see this as an obstacle, we see that as our strength.

The German Immersion School on the other hand, is 87% White and 7% students living in poverty. This is yet another charter school looking to expand unchecked segregation in our city. We do not think this benefits the public good, and it has detrimental effects for our students in the long run. These schools are increasingly pulling more and more students out of the much more integrated learning environments of Saint Paul Public Schools. This is increasingly draining funding from our public schools, who accept all students and when demographics are taken into consideration, out perform these charters.

The German Immersion and other charter schools will claim they are public schools, but they clearly acting in a private business mindset. Is that what our city wants for a school system? Shortly before break, New Orleans converted its last public school to a charter company. Rather than a system that looks after all members of its community, going to school in New Orleans is picking one of many independent charters in the city. Instead of making sure all students are served in the city, every family is looking out only for their own and each school is only caring about their own survival. This is a system that will create winners and losers. And history shows us over time that when a competitive system is put in place, white families and families with means win and families of color and families living in poverty lose. This is not in line with our values for public education at SPFE.

The Saint Paul Federation of Educators is opposed to the expansion of the German Immersion Charter School and other charters in our city. We encourage our elected officials to reject this expansion as well and to carefully consider the impact of continued expansion of charters.

Sincerely,

Nick Faber, NBCT

President, Saint Paul Federation of Educators

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

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen

I oppose the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion charter School (TCGIS), and specifically the demolition of the former St. Andrew's church, a historically significant building in the Warrendale neighborhood of St. Paul that contributes to the architectural richness and charm of our city.

TCGIS' plan was developed with no meaningful community input, creates safety and traffic issues, adversely changes the character of the neighborhood, doesn't promote diversity (the school is 87% white vs. 29% for neighborhood schools), is opposed by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers and NAACP, and—out of lack of empathy—destroys the symbolic heart of Warrendale, the former St. Andrew's church. Designed in 1927 by St. Paul's first city architect, author of St. Paul's first building code, and noted progressive, Charles A. Hausler. The neighborhood is small, so their plan to destroy the historic St. Andrew's church would have an outsized affect.

I urge you to vote against the expansion plan proposed by TCGIS. My hope is that your vote would encourage TCGIS to work with the community on a better plan.

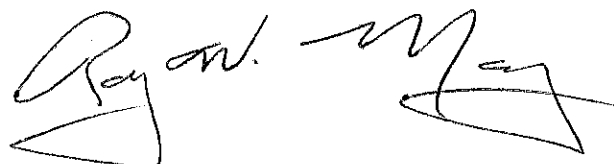
The Heritage Preservation Commission voted that St. Andrew's IS HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT AND SHOULD BE SAVED. This decision was then reviewed by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office which agreed—St. Andrew's is a special place. I urge you to respect the recommendation of two respected preservation agencies.

Instead of collaboration, CGIS has lobbied city officials, hired a PR firm, and high-powered lawyers. TCGIS claims the building was "abandoned," and may be abandoned again if their plan isn't approved. Both of those claims are false. Or that neighbors "weaponized" preservation against TCGIS, which is also untrue. According to the National Historic Preservation Act, "Historic designations are one of the best forms of legal protection a historic place can have. A place's owner, a preservation organization, or a member of the community who values the resource usually initiates the application for historic designation".

If the historic St. Andrew's is lost, so is opportunity for collaboration and compromise.

Name,
Address

ROY W MAGNUSON
727 WHEELLOCK PARKWAY WEST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55117



N

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

Dear Councilmember Amy Brendmoen

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Name, JOHN REGENOLD
Address 545 W. RYAN AVE
ROSEVILLE MN 55113

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

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Name, Gary Schwartzbauer
Address 3235 Buchanan ST. NE
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55418

N

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

Dear Councilmember

Amy Brendmoen

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Name,
Address

MARY SCHWARTZBAUER
1968 SKILLMAN AVE W
ROSEVILLE MN 55113
May Schuster

N

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

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Name, Kathleen Marier
Address 1956 Skellern Ave W
Roseville, MN 55113

N

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

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Name, THOMAS SCHWARTZBAUER
Address 1968 SKILLMAN AVE. W.
ROSEVILLE MN 55113

Thomas Schwartzbauer

N

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

Dear Councilmember Amy Brenden

I oppose the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion charter School (TCGIS), and specifically the demolition of the former St. Andrew's church, a historically significant building in the Warrendale neighborhood of St. Paul that contributes to the architectural richness and charm of our city.

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If the historic St. Andrew's is lost, so is opportunity for collaboration and compromise.

Name, James Fisher
Address 111 Cheskill St
St Paul MN 55103

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

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Name, Brian Flesher
Address 1111 Churchill St
St. Paul, MN 55103

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

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Name, Maria Greenwood
Address 1111 Argyle St.
St. Paul MN,
55103

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

Dear Councilmember

Amy

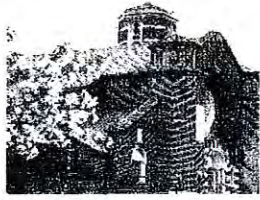
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Name
Address

Erik Swanson
1039 Van Slyke Ave.



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City Council of Saint Paul
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Saint Paul, MN 55102

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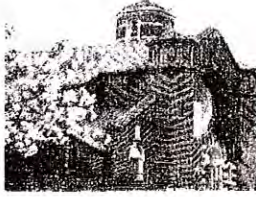
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Name

Address


957 Como Blvd. E.
St. Paul, MN 55103





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Saint Paul, MN 55102

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Name, Josie + Mike Mell
Address 1245 VICTORIA ST. N
St. Paul, MN 55117

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

Dear Councilmember AMY BRENDMOEN

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Name, JOE HOFFMAN *Joe Hoffman*
Address
700 DOUGLAS Av #102
MPLS, MN 55403

N

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

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Name, *Janice Nixon*
Address *5834 W Bull Eagle Blvd*
White Bear Lake, MN
55110

N

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

Dear Councilmember Brendman

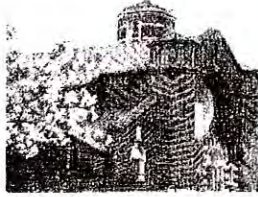
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Name
Address

Michael S. Millet
868 Como Ave. 55103



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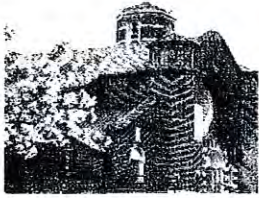
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Name Custina Coakley
Address 868, COMO AVE, ST PAUL, 55103

N



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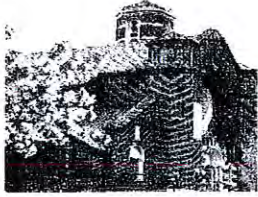
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Name Marge Ross
Address 1700 Holton St.
St Paul MN

N



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ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us Rebecca Noecker

ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us Chris Tolbert

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

ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us Amy Brendmoen, City Council President

ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us Kassim Busuri (replaced retired Dan Bostrom)

ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us Jane Prince

4. Attend the City Council Public Hearing on March 20th

5. Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/historicstandrews1/>

6. Visit our website: <https://savehistoricsaintandrews.org>

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

Dear Councilmember BREN OMOEN.

I oppose the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion charter School (TCGIS), and specifically the demolition of the former St. Andrew's church, a historically significant building in the Warrendale neighborhood of St. Paul that contributes to the architectural richness and charm of our city.

TCGIS' plan was developed with no meaningful community input, creates safety and traffic issues, adversely changes the character of the neighborhood, doesn't promote diversity (the school is 87% white vs. 29% for neighborhood schools), is opposed by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers and NAACP, and—out of lack of empathy—destroys the symbolic heart of Warrendale, the former St. Andrew's church. Designed in 1927 by St. Paul's first city architect, author of St. Paul's first building code, and noted progressive, Charles A. Hausler. The neighborhood is small, so their plan to destroy the historic St. Andrew's church would have an outsized affect.

I urge you to vote against the expansion plan proposed by TCGIS. My hope is that your vote would encourage TCGIS to work with the community on a better plan.

The Heritage Preservation Commission voted that St. Andrew's IS HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT AND SHOULD BE SAVED. This decision was then reviewed by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office which agreed—St. Andrew's is a special place. I urge you to respect the recommendation of two respected preservation agencies.

Instead of collaboration, CGIS has lobbied city officials, hired a PR firm, and high-powered lawyers. TCGIS claims the building was "abandoned," and may be abandoned again if their plan isn't approved. Both of those claims are false. Or that neighbors "weaponized" preservation against TCGIS, which is also untrue. According to the National Historic Preservation Act, "Historic designations are one of the best forms of legal protection a historic place can have. A place's owner, a preservation organization, or a member of the community who values the resource usually initiates the application for historic designation".

If the historic St. Andrew's is lost, so is opportunity for collaboration and compromise.

Name, Ben Ross
Address 1700 HOLTON ST

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

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Name,
Address

*Nancy Novak
PO 6442
MAPS, 55106
Como Park
Resident
2545*

N

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

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen

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If the historic St. Andrew's is lost, so is opportunity for collaboration and compromise.

Name, Jamie Hendricks
Address 1280 Galtier Street
St. Paul, MN. 55117

N

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

Dear Councilmember Brendan

I oppose the expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion charter School (TCGIS), and specifically the demolition of the former St. Andrew's church, a historically significant building in the Warrendale neighborhood of St. Paul that contributes to the architectural richness and charm of our city.

- According to the National Historic Preservation Act, "A place's owner, a preservation organization, or a member of the community who values the resource usually initiates the application for historic designation". Citizens can nominate important buildings for historic designation—that's the law.
- Demolition of St. Andrew's would forever alter the character of a small, historic neighborhood and destroys a significant St. Paul historic landmark.
- The TCGIS choice to expand its enrollment is opposed by the St. Paul Federation of Teachers and NAACP. Public charter schools are exempt from the same anti-segregation laws that public schools such as SPPS must follow.
- TCGIS has elected to expand its enrollment, resulting in their desire to demolish St. Andrew's. There are better options.
- In Saint Paul, there are examples of former churches reused for performance spaces, homes, and a charter school. There is a better plan. The environmental rewards of adaptive reuse are significant. The greenest building is the one already standing.
- St. Andrew's deserves to be valued, not leveled. In the AIA Guide to Twin Cities Architecture, retired Pioneer Press writer Larry Millet called out St. Andrew's as one of the best local examples of period revival.
- The demolition of St. Andrew's violates the city and neighborhood comprehensive plans.

The legacy of the demolition of an eligible historic site would be permanent and sets a terrible precedent. St. Andrew's is irreplaceable. If St. Andrew's is needlessly lost, so is opportunity for collaboration and compromise.

Name Sydney M. Connolly
Address 105 Rose Ave West
St. Paul MN 55117

N



Friends of Warrendale - Save Historic St. Andrews LLC

St. Andrew's has been an important anchor for early immigrants to our city, was part of the education of generations of children at the adjacent St. Andrew's School, and helped spawn no fewer than five other area Catholic Churches. We commissioned a historic designation study that was submitted to the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, which determined, by an overwhelming 8-1 vote, that St. Andrew's is eligible as a local heritage preservation site. The next step in local designation is a vote by St. Paul City Council, expected in March.

How You Can Help

1. Sign our petition.

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-historic-st-andrews-in-como-park.html>

2. Donate

<https://www.gofundme.com/savehistoricstandrews>

3. Write to your City Council member

Remind your city council that the TCGIS expansion plan knowingly violates the St. Paul city comprehensive plan. Inform them that you oppose a plan that would destroy an historic building. Remind city council and its sustainability officers that demolition is not green, nor sustainable, and that the greenest building is the one already built. Let them know you believe historic buildings aren't disposable, and are part of a healthy, vibrant community.

ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us Dai Thao

ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us Rebecca Noecker

ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us Chris Tolbert

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

ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us Amy Brendmoen, City Council President

ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us Kassim Busuri (replaced retired Dan Bostrom)

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15 Kellogg Blvd West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember *Burdman*

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Name, *Lynn M. Connelly*
Address
105 Rose Ave West
St. Paul MN 55117

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

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen

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Name, Jamie Hendricks
Address 1280 Galtier Street
St. Paul, MN. 55117

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

Dear Councilmember *Amy Brendmoen,*

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Name, *Julie Knapp*
Address *1879 Konhard St*
St. Paul MN 55109

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

Dear Councilmember Amy Breuninger

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Name, CAROL REGENOLD
Address 545 W RYAN AVE
ROSEVILLE MN 55113

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

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Name,
Address

Shawn Palmer
6772 Sherwood Circle
Woodbury, MN 55125