

St. Anthony Park Community Council/District 12
2395 University Avenue West, Suite 300E
Saint Paul, MN 55114



To: Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

May 20, 2020

Dear Saint Paul City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the St. Anthony Park Community Council, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Tenant Protection Ordinance. As part of our 10-year Plan, per our Equity Framework (excerpt below), we recognize this ordinance as an important stepping stone towards true housing equity in Saint Paul.

HOUSING EQUITY: AFFORDABLE, STABLE, AND QUALITY OF HOUSING CHOICES

The housing conditions in which a person is raised are among the strongest social determinants of health, wealth, and future achievement. The impact of housing can affect a person's ability to access quality education, health care, jobs, and transportation. Home ownership remains one of the most important sources of wealth in our country, and creates the kind of durable wealth that is often key to escaping intergenerational cycles of poverty. People of color are disproportionately renters, in part because they face discrimination to home ownership such as high-interest loans or outright denial of their mortgage application. Current research on gentrification highlights the ways in which the displacement of existing low or moderate-income renters negatively impacts their physical and mental health, as well as their ability to cultivate social and economic networks that provide both support and opportunity. Housing must be affordable to people living on limited incomes, and stable in the sense that new development does not cause residents to be displaced by rising rents or home prices. Housing options must also be diverse and accessible to ensure that families of all sizes and people with disabilities are not significantly limited in their choices.

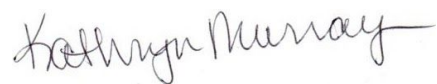
Housing should also be free of structural defects and environmental hazards such as mold and lead. As housing in or near the urban core becomes increasingly expensive as a result of housing, transportation, and land use decisions, many people living on low incomes are forced to relocate to more suburban areas further from education and job opportunities, public transportation, healthy food options, and public gathering spaces. This means that displaced people not only incur the significant costs of relocation, but also face increases in other household expenses, leaving them financially worse off than they were before being forced out of their old neighborhood. The displacement of these communities creates new economic pressures on already disproportionately low-income people and destroys interpersonal

networks that are essential for accessing opportunity. Ensuring mixed-income and ethnically diverse communities is an essential part of achieving Vibrant Communities across our region by avoiding concentrated pockets of poverty or deprivation from limiting the potential of our residents.

We strongly urge you to approve the Tenant Protection Ordinance and look forward to continuing to work with the Ward 4 office to engage the community on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Murray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Kathryn Murray, Executive Director
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