From:	Bach, Heather
To:	*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject:	Written Statement from 900 Fairview Ave S for 2023 Mill and Overlay - Fairview Ave: Randolph to Edgcumbe
Date:	Wednesday, September 18, 2024 11:28:21 AM

CORPORATE

To the Saint Paul City Council and Councilmember Saura Jost,

I was hoping to attend today's public hearing in person but unfortunately due to an unexpected change in childcare I will most likely not be able to attend. I would like to instead share a written statement regarding the proposed assessment for the 2023 Mill and Overlay of Fairview Avenue: Randolph to Edgcumbe.

I am the property owner of 900 Fairview Ave S, Saint Paul, MN, 55116, which is located on the corner of Fairview Ave S and Saunders Ave. The proposed assessment for my property is $3,881.02.

While my front door and driveway enter onto Fairview Ave S, my main residential road is Saunders Ave. This is where visitors to my home park. It is where all delivery trucks must stop. And it is where I grab any shared ride services. **That is because Fairview Ave S is not a residential road.** There is no parking, there is no stopping of cars; it is a thoroughfare for the broader Saint Paul community and beyond.

I work from home looking out onto Fairview Ave every day from 7:00 am until 4:00 pm and I watch a steady stream of cars, trucks, delivery vans, service vehicles, school buses and semi-trucks, go back and forth all day long. **These are not all my neighbors.** These are commuters, business vans, school buses and city vehicles. It is how a large population of people get from Hwy 5 and 94 into and across the area. (Point in case, if I was to have counted how many vehicles I have seen since starting this email, I would say that it has been at least 30-40 and that is at a non-peak time of 11:05 AM.)

My argument is that I do not understand why only residential houses located on Fairview Ave are being assessed for a cost that benefits so many when it should be either paid for by the city entirely or spread across city residents in a more equitable manner.

I attended the last public hearing on this subject in 2023 and asked the very same question. It was positioned to us that the mill and overlay was a "special assessment" because it was a benefit to the homes on Fairview Ave and would increase my property value.

Firstly, value to my property should be assessed in my property taxes, not in additional special assessments. Secondly, I would disagree that this is a benefit to my home. I have seen an increase in traffic and an increase in car speeds since the project was completed. The biggest benefits I see are for commuters (a nicer driving experience as the get across town) and local businesses (residents of Fairview Ave are not the majority of the cars using Fairview Ave to reach Cleveland, Saint Paul and Randolph Avenues).

I do not believe that the Fairview Ave residents alone should bear the costs of this work. With the amount of traffic the road sees, I fear that we are being asked to pay this now, we will be asked again in 5-10 years, and so forth. As a very happy resident of Saint

Paul and Ward 3, I do want to pay my fair share to ensure we maintain the thriving community we have, and I will do that in my property taxes as well as any assessments I receive from Saunders Ave (my usable residential road).

I would also like to comment on the payment terms proposed. Regardless of what is decided, I do not understand why the City Council feels that it would be appropriate to charge a 4.25% interest after 30 days. The numbers in these assessments are very large and for many not something that can easily be paid in one month (e.g. single parents like myself working within a strict monthly budget; retirees working within a fixed income like my neighbor across the street; and families with 4+ children like two of my other direct neighbors). If the costs of this project were budgeted, why would the city require a 4.5% rate of return? I feel more favorable terms, such as several years of 0% interest, would better serve the community.

In closing, I ask the City Council to consider the views of your constituents and reconsider these unequitable assessments.

Kind Regards,
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