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Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:40 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: DID Project

I was on the city council meeting that happened Wednesday afternoon. I would implore you to not support the DID project at this time. As you personally said yesterday this is not the time to be increasing costs. I find it very hypocritical that the council votes to not increase the levy and not raise taxes, but in the very next breath say you support this project that seems to be jerry rigged together.

We are a small family owned business. The companies that seem to be supporting this are so much larger and have far deeper pockets than our business. We have had furloughs and pay cuts because of COVID. We already spend tens of thousands of dollars a year in taxes. In spite of this we come into work each day with people sleeping in our lot and our porch area, cars parking in metered spots for days and weeks on end without paying the meter. Last week there were 4 cars in front of our building with the hoods up being worked on. I am sure if I or one of our employees parked in one of these spots we would promptly be ticketed. The litter that accumulates around our building is abundant.

We adamantly oppose this project because of the following:

1. There hasn't been proper notice and information about the project openly shared
2. There is not a clear detailed explanation of the return on the investment
3. The ENTIRE downtown area is not included
4. There are too many unknown factors regarding COVID and when businesses will be able to fully recover.

Again I ask you to stay the course across the board. If it is not a good time to increase taxes on the general public, then it is certainly not the time to add this to struggling small businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



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