

From: [Chai Lee](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward6](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward7](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul_CityClerk](#); [Carlos Albornoz](#); [Peter Leggett](#)
Subject: Public Hearing on creating the 1624/1626 White Bear Avenue North Commercial Development District at 10:00 AM at 1965 Hoyt Avenue East
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 5:06:26 PM

Dear St. Paul Policymakers,

My name is Chai Lee and I am a proud long-time east side resident. Since my family moved here from Fresno, CA, the east side is the only place I have called home except for my 4 years as a college student in Northfield when I attended Carleton College from 2005-2009.

I am writing regarding: Public Hearing on creating the 1624/1626 White Bear Avenue North Commercial Development District

I cannot attend in person to give public comment so please consider this my public comment for the record in support of this CCD and Cups and Cheers (henceforth I will refer to its informal community acronym of CnC).

CnC is a wonderful local business - who has the courage to open before a pandemic and survive it? Who has the heart and soul of community love to host fundraisers for community orgs, nonprofits and individuals for philanthropy and good causes as they do when they open their hearts and doors to fundraisers feeding people with hearty pho soup? CnC does. That's who. They have a unique business model that is so cool and different from ANY OTHER business within city limits - private karaoke rooms? Yes! A large community room that has free community karaoke on week nights? Yes! It's a bar and a restaurant? Wow. Yes. They do it all!

I support allowing CnC to open until 2am so they can be competitive with other businesses down the street, such as The Cherry Pit or Obbs, or whoever else. Let's equal the playing field for all our businesses.

It's hard to open a business. It's even harder to stay in business. Statistics are harsh. Most new businesses do not see year 2 or even year 5. I hope that the city can be flexible and understanding and allow every advantage to have such a great community member as CnC to flourish. They are an active and wonderful community partner and neighbor. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chai Lee

Chai Lee

Your ability to control your thoughts – treat it with respect. It's all that protects your mind from false perceptions – false to your nature, and that of all rational beings. It's what makes thoughtfulness possible, and affection for other people, and submission to the divine.

- **Marcus Aurelius, Emperor of Rome**

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