

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ORD 20-31


From: Clinton Blaiser <cblaiser@hbgltd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 3:23 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Fully Support DID

Hello Council Members,

Just a quick note to let you know we as owners of Osborn 370 fully support the Downtown Improvement District (DID) and also as a new resident living downtown.

The Rice Park area is a tremendous first step in the right direction and hopefully we can eventually encompass all of downtown. Please support this at tomorrow nights vote

Regards,



Clinton Blaiser
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From: Todd Geller <todd@victorycapital.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 9:22 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support for St. Paul Downtown Improvement District
Importance: High

St. Paul City Council Members,

I write you today to voice my support for the formation of the St. Paul Downtown Improvement District. As a long time Downtown St. Paul property owner I am very concerned about the security and safety of people that work, live and visit our City. I believe the Fusion Center and other services that will be provided by the District will provide critical support to the City and our police, further enhancing safety throughout Downtown. Providing a safe, secure and clean Downtown will ultimately lead to increased vitality and vibrancy through the attraction of new businesses and residents.

I encourage you to vote in favor of the St. Paul Downtown Improvement District. Thank you.

Todd Geller



Todd A. Geller
Victory Capital Corporation
Victory Parking, Inc.
421 Wabasha Street N, Ste 200
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: (651)222-8972
Cell: (612)730-5430
Email: todd@victorycapital.com

From: Dean Freeman <dean.freeman@frauenshuh.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:25 AM
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Joe Spencer <joe.spencer@stpdowntownalliance.org>
Subject: Saint Paul Business Improvement District

The owners of Infor Commons (380 St. Peter Street) and Frauenshuh Inc. ("Frauenshuh") support the creation and operation of the Saint Paul Business Improvement District. Frauenshuh's roots are deep in the downtown Saint Paul business community and we welcome the opportunity to help elevate it to the next level.

We feel the formation of a public / private group that is committed to the success of the downtown Saint Paul business community will assist the City with additional resources to bring new vitality to downtown Saint Paul.

Thank you,

Dean

Dean R. Freeman CCIM, CPM
Senior Vice President
O – 952-838-7131 C – 612-860-1607



From: Kirsten Carson <KCarson@preshomes.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:14 AM
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: downtown special service improvement district

Good morning;

I am writing as the Administrator of the property located at 20 E. Exchange street St. Paul. We received the notice of the proposed service charge rate for our property, we calculated it out and it comes to about \$5,000 per year for the next 5 years. We wanted to express our concern about the amount as Presbyterian Homes and Services -Central Towers is Ministry too Low to extremely seniors. We serve approximately 193 residents in our building and we are a non-profit company. Due to our mission our site is never target to make any money, we often have to have grants written to serve our population. The \$25,000 would be detrimental to our budget and would take away capital repair projects we need to make in our 55 year old building or programming that we provide our seniors. I would appreciate a reconsideration of the proposed service charge.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Carson
Housing Administrator
Presbyterian Homes and Services - Central Towers
Direct (651) 215-4540
Main (651) 215-4600

From: Kelly Hadac <KHadac@hkmlawgroup.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:39 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul) <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Michael Mather <MMather@hkmlawgroup.com>
Subject: Minn. Stat. 428A Objection to Special Service Improvement District by Degree of Honor Building LLC and Alliance Center LLC

Dear City Council:

I am legal counsel for Degree of Honor Building LLC and Alliance Center LLC. I am submitting this email in accordance with the Notice of Public Hearings Relating to Establishment of Downtown Special Service Improvement District. A hearing is scheduled for September 16, 2020 at 3:30 pm.

First, please be advised that Degree of Honor Building LLC and Alliance Center LLC did not receive mailed written notice of the above hearing as required by Minn. Stat. Chapter 428A. Any action taken by the City Council today that impacts my clients will therefore be null and void.

Second, despite not receiving written notice as indicated above, Degree of Honor Building LLC and Alliance Center LLC hereby object to the proposed special service improvement district pursuant to Minn. Stat. 428A.02, subd. 4 (1), (2) and (3). Moreover, any property owned by Alliance Center LLC that is east of Cedar Street is simply not eligible for the special service improvement district as it is not in the boundaries on the map provided in the notice. Finally, the Degree of Honor Building LLC is currently being converted to residential apartments and is exempt.

Thank you.



Kelly S. Hadac, Attorney at Law
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From: Jon Fure <jon.fure@capitolrivercouncil.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Joe Spencer <joe.spencer@stpdowntownalliance.org>; shevekm@gmail.com
Subject: CRC feedback on proposed Downtown Improvement District

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

As downtown stakeholders and community organizers, the CapitolRiver Council Board enthusiastically supports the implementation of the Special Service District. An improvement district is a powerful instrument in adding vitality to our downtown neighborhood and we believe it will provide opportunities to increase value for all downtown stakeholders.

It is crucial that downtown continue to get its appropriate share of regular city services, however, this improvement district will create more revenue for services in our neighborhood, and the people who are paying into the district will be able to determine how it is spent. This will create opportunities to develop new ways to improve the livability of Downtown, whereas presently any proposals to increase investment Downtown must compete with every other potential City budget item, and must compete with pressure to decrease taxes and fees for Saint Paul taxpayers. We believe this is a reasonable way to increase investment in our neighborhood.

From: Joan Lindsley <JLindsley@reigstad.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:39 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Downtown Improvement District

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hello Ms. Noecker,

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.



Joan Lindsley
Business Manager

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