

From: [Mary Englund](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: The lamplighter
Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 4:09:33 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I want to express my strong support for anything you can do to bring about the closure of the Lamplighter at 160 Larpenteur Ave, St Paul.

I am sure you have seen the records of many calls to police, gunshot occurrences, public drunkenness, and even a death in the parking lot of this establishment.

The Rice and Larpenteur area will never rise above its "blighted" appearance or status in the eyes of many citizens, in my opinion, until this place is closed for good.

Strip clubs are an entry point for sex trafficking of women. According to "Inextricably Bound: Strip Clubs, Prostitution, and Sex Trafficking" by Dan O'Bryant of Harvard University,

"The men who come to the clubs don't come for the overpriced drinks, they come for the fantasy girl and the potential for a "happy ending." No strip club survives where the promise of sex acts in back rooms, VIP rooms, or local hotels is not realized. Strip club managers have to balance keeping alive the environment that keeps the predatory males coming back for more, while trying to give the appearance of staying within legal limits. Pimps become regular customers at strip clubs. For years, they have used the clubs to break down the inhibitions of their young girls. The use of drugs among dancers is common to numb the reality of their daily abuse. Pimps also pay off security guards and management so they can bring in their girls and recruit others."

There have been enough complaints, fights, guns fired and now a death. What more evidence do you need to close this place down for the safety of our community and for the surrounding businesses to thrive?

Thank you,

Mary Englund
PS. I live within a mile of the Lamplighter.