

**From:** Anne Thom <annegooselake@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2016 1:09 PM  
**To:** Moser, Lynn (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** ROW statement for 2016 and 2017

To the members of the St. Paul City Council:

I am objecting to the 2016 and 2017 ROW tax that I am being charged. Since I moved into this house six years ago, the assessment has gone up much more than property taxes and certainly much more than my annual salary, and is actually outpacing the increase in my healthcare costs, something that is really difficult to accomplish given the current state of affairs in health care.

This tax is inequitable.

My property address is Victoria Street. I am taxed at a higher rate than surrounding neighbors whose property address is on Lakeview or Ivy, yet, they are all driving their cars from the alley onto Victoria onto the street that I am charged to maintain. It would seem to me they should all be paying just as much as I do. They are benefiting from this. I will also point out that there is a rental property across the street from me. The renters park their cars in front of my house on my footage, yet that duplex owner pays half of what I pay, and I would like to actually send Josh a bill for his portion of my tax for keeping the street nice for his renters making his rental property more attractive. So it seems that all of my neighbors benefit because of the tax I pay to maintain this stretch of road, not to mention the commuters from Roseville, Shoreview and North Oaks who pass through daily, speeding on my residential street that I can't get any enforcement for.

Overall, I object as this is a tax. In every other city this is called a property tax. I understand it was what someone thought was an ingenious way to get the non-profits to pay, but really, I do believe that if I had the money and took the time and trouble to dispute this as an "assessment", that the city could show a court of law that there was a proportionate benefit to my property through this tax.

I lived in Minneapolis for 25 years. That city, at a lesser property tax and using no "assessments", managed to plow the alleys, pick up the trash and recycling at the curb, and keep the streets clean. St. Paul is failing miserably in this regard and only the allure of the house I live in, which I adore, keeps me from moving. I am well aware and have stated to city officials previously that if I just moved 3/4 of a mile across the border into Roseville or Falcon Heights, my property taxes would drop by 1/3 and I would be paying for the basic city services that every city should provide within the property tax bill.

I elect city officials to problem solve on my behalf as a citizen. Please come up with a better more equitable solution.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anne Thom  
1355 N Victoria Street

**Recommended 2016 Right-of-Way Assessment and Above-Standard Lighting  
Operation and Maintenance (if applicable)—THIS IS NOT A BILL**

**Property Address:** 1355 VICTORIA ST N  
**Property ID Number:** 23-29-23-42-0164

<u>Street Class</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Frontage</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Outlying Commercial/Arterial Streets	\$4.07/foot X	79.00 feet =	\$321.53
Oiled/Paved Alleys	\$0.86/foot X	62.00 feet =	\$53.32

<b>Total Recommended Assessment</b>	<b>\$374.85</b>
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The recommended 2016 rates and proposed 2017 rates are listed on the reverse side.

The Right-of-Way Maintenance Assessment Policy governs how the assessment is calculated based on assessable frontage and established assessment rates. A copy of the policy can be found at [www.stpaul.gov/assessments](http://www.stpaul.gov/assessments) under the ROW Maintenance Assessment tab. The proposed assessment roll is filed with the city clerk and open to public inspection. Partial or full prepayment of your assessment to City of Saint Paul is permitted by ordinance.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
25 W FOURTH ST, STE 1000  
SAINT PAUL MN 55102-1600

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Important Public Hearing Notice  
on Right-of-Way Maintenance Program and  
Above-Standard Lighting Operation and  
Maintenance Program**

**THIS IS NOT A BILL**

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 3844  
TWIN CITIES, MN

Anne M Thom  
Randall J King  
1355 Victoria St N  
Saint Paul MN 55117-4031

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
**Right-of-Way Maintenance Program and Assessment**  
**Above-Standard Lighting Operation and Maintenance Program and Assessment**

**To notify property owners of the following two official public hearings before the City Council**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Purpose of the hearing:</b>	To adopt proposed assessment rates and ratify assessments for 2016 Services. Written and oral statements will be considered by the Council at this meeting. <u>Only written objections made at or before the hearing are eligible for appeal.</u>	To consider proposed assessment rates and service levels for the 2017 program. Written and oral statements will be considered by the Council at this meeting.
<b>Hearing time and location:</b>	Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W.	Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd. W.

Visit our link at [www.stpaul.gov/assessments](http://www.stpaul.gov/assessments) to view assessment information, or call 651-266-8858 with questions.

Tenemos a su disposición servicios de intérpretes gratuitos 651-266-8858, Adeegyada tarjumaada oo lacag la'aan ah ayaad helaysaa 651-266-8858, Yog koj xav tau tus neeg pab txhais lus dawb 651-266-8858.

## Assessment Rates per Foot and Service Levels

See other side for the proposed assessment for your property

Street Class	Description	2016 Recommended Rates	2017 Proposed Rates	Services Provided
1-A	<b>Downtown Streets (Paved)</b>			Flush and sweep twice/week, street overlays, pavement repairs, ROW trash can pick up, ordinance enforcement, snow and ice control, snow removal, snow emergencies, sidewalk repairs, boulevard tree maintenance, streetlight maintenance, traffic signs and pavement markings
	All Properties (except residential condos)	\$19.28	\$20.63	
	Residential Condominiums	\$3.71	\$3.97	
1-B	<b>Downtown Streets (Brick)</b>			Flush and sweep twice/week, brick repairs, ROW trash can pick up, ordinance enforcement, snow and ice control, snow removal, snow emergencies, sidewalk repairs, boulevard tree maintenance, streetlight maintenance, traffic signs and pavement markings
	All Properties (except residential condos)	\$23.33	\$24.96	
	Residential Condominiums	\$3.71	\$3.97	
2	<b>Outlying Commercial/Arterial Streets</b>			Flush and sweep multiple times per year, street overlays, pavement repairs, ordinance enforcement, snow and ice control, snow emergencies, sidewalk repairs, boulevard tree maintenance, streetlight maintenance, traffic signs and pavement markings
	Commercial Property	\$9.98	\$10.68	
	Residential Property	\$4.07	\$4.35	
3	<b>Oiled/Paved Residential Streets</b>			Flush and sweep each spring and fall, seal coat every 8 years, pavement repairs, ordinance enforcement, snow and ice control, snow emergencies, sidewalk repairs, boulevard tree maintenance, streetlight maintenance, traffic signs and pavement markings
	Commercial Property	\$7.34	\$7.85	
	Residential Property	\$3.80	\$4.07	
4	<b>Oiled/Paved Alleys</b>			Flush and sweep each spring, seal coat every 8 years, pavement repairs, ordinance enforcement
	Commercial Property	\$1.36	\$1.46	
	Residential Property	\$0.86	\$0.92	
5	<b>Unimproved Street Right-of-Way</b>			Patch, blade and place crushed rock as needed, boulevard tree maintenance, ordinance enforcement
	Commercial Property	\$3.64	\$3.89	
	Residential Property	\$2.06	\$2.20	
6	<b>Unimproved Alley Right-of-Way</b>			Patch, blade and place crushed rock as needed, ordinance enforcement
	Commercial Property	\$0.78	\$0.83	
	Residential Property	\$0.57	\$0.61	
7	<b>Above-Standard Lighting</b>			Provide electricity for above-standard street light fixtures. Maintain, repair and replace fixtures as needed. Paint light poles on approximately a 7-year cycle.
	Commercial Property	Rates vary by	Rates vary by	
	Institutional Property Residential Property	lighting district	lighting district	

### What services are not provided by the Right-of-Way Program?

(These services are the abutting property owner's responsibility)

- Shoveling of sidewalks
- Plowing of alleys
- Mowing of boulevard grass
- Repair and replacement of outwalks
- Repair and replacement of driveways
- Repair and replacement of hard-surface boulevards
- Replacement of downtown sidewalks

### What is the cost to provide Right-of-Way maintenance services?

In 2016 the estimated total cost is \$46.2 million. Of this amount, the City expects to collect \$30.7 million in assessments. The remainder comes from Municipal State Aid, Trunk Highway Aid, County Aid and miscellaneous receipts.

### What is the Above-Standard Lighting charge? Do I have to pay it?

The charge pays for electricity, repair, replacement and painting of decorative street lighting fixtures in above standard street lighting districts located Downtown and in outlying commercial areas. Only properties that are currently within existing above standard street lighting districts are billed for this service.

### Can I appeal my Right-of-Way Assessment?

No appeal may be taken as to the amount of any adopted assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the city clerk prior to the public hearing or presented in writing to the presiding officer at the public hearing, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 429.061. An owner may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 429.081 by serving a notice of the appeal upon the mayor or city clerk within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the mayor or clerk.

### Who can I call for more information?

Right-of-way maintenance services:  
 Streets and alleys – 651-266-9700 (24-hour service number)  
 Sidewalks – 651-266-6120  
 Traffic signs/markings and lighting – 651-266-9777  
 Boulevard tree trimming – 651-632-5129  
 Assessments:  
 Real Estate Section – 651-266-8858

The City does not defer payment of Right-of-Way assessments pursuant to Minn. Stat. 435.193 to 435.195.

Within 10 days following the October 5 public hearing you will receive an invoice for the 2016 Right-of-Way Maintenance Assessment for your property. You may prepay your assessment by November 15 without accruing interest. Payments made after November 15 will accrue interest at a rate of 4.15% per annum.