From:	Melanie Peterson-Nafziger
To:	*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing
Cc:	Erik Peterson; Alexa Golemo; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_Mayor
Subject:	Re: Notification of License Hearing To Interested Parties - P & S Enterprises Inc, dba Haas Collision & Glass - 1400 St Clair Ave
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 11:48:36 AM

Dear Mr. Weiner,

I am unavailable to attend the October 6 hearing about the application for licensure for Haas Auto Body at 1400 Saint Clair. If I were able to attend, the following is what I would say. I hope that this could be read aloud by someone at the hearing or at least presented to the Legislative Hearing Officer before a decision is made. Thank you for your attention and support in this matter.

Warm regards,
Melanie Peterson-Nafziger
1386 Saint Clair Avenue

September 30, 2022

Dear St. Paul DSI and Legislative Hearing Officer,

Thank you for inviting citizen input on the application for a license for the auto body shop at 1400 St. Clair Avenue. I am unavailable to attend the October 6 LIEP hearing as I will be on a flight at 2:40 pm that day. I hope that you will take into account the following perspective as you make decisions about where businesses are allowed to engage in generating and emitting carcinogenic pollution in our St. Paul communities.

At the Sept 28 MGCC Housing and Land Use Committee meeting, several committee members expressed they did not feel equipped to be making a recommendation on this licensure application. They are 10 volunteers with little to no expert scientific understanding of air pollution, cancer, or modern expert urban planning and sustainable development. They also had many questions about city regulations and whether there were records about this auto body shop that were not included in the City files they were able to access. I noticed the City of St. Paul files reviewed by committee members did not include letters from concerned citizens last time this auto body shop applied for a license (at least 3 letters from concerned citizens about a decade ago) or a record of citizens speaking out against the license at the licensure hearing with Marcia Moermond (at least 2 citizens spoke out against renewal at this hearing and warned of cancer risks, which have now all come true). I noticed the files also did not include records of DSI inspector Dave Bergman's interactions with the business including citing them for having a missing filter in their pollution-reduction air filtration system, and the many complaints he received about fumes from this business. The owner claimed that they are just emitting water vapor; that is clearly not true from complaints spanning decades about nail-polish/spray paint-type fumes and overwhelming research about the dangerous nature of auto body fumes from across the country. This is not a matter of *smells* that some people find objectionable. This is about whether St. Paul's DSI will continue to allow a business to emit *carcinogens* that endanger citizens' health on a property zoned single-family residential.

The business owner stated that the City has allowed an auto body shop to do business at that location since the 1940s despite the land being zoned Single Family Residential. There are many things that were allowed in the 1940s that we have realized were bad for human health and human rights and no longer allow:

- Smoking indoors in public places
- Painting your house, furniture, etc. with lead paint
- Driving cars with leaded fuel
-

Handling asbestos without adequate protection

The list goes on and on. We learn new scientific information and develop a deeper understanding of the way diseases are caused and the role of government in protecting healthy communities, and we change our laws and practices. Just because the government made a decision in the 1940s, does not mean it is right, scientifically, politically, or ethically, to make the same decision despite overwhelming evidence of new risks. Claiming that because that was the decision in the 1940s means it should be the decision now is a logical fallacy that ignores all modern scientific evidence of epidemiology and air pollution.

"Auto body shops repair, repaint, and customize cars, trucks, and other vehicles. Their activities include sanding, cleaning, and painting, all of which may release pollutants into the air and may contribute to health concerns in the shop and in the community. Auto body shops emit pollutants such as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), particle pollution (dust), and volatile organic compounds (VOC). These pollutants can contribute to health problems that may affect shop employees, customers, and the community." EPA Source

"People who are exposed to toxic air pollutants at sufficient concentrations, for sufficient durations, may increase their chances of getting cancer or experiencing other serious health effects, such as reproductive problems, birth defects, and aggravated asthma."
About 287,000 tons of volatile organic compounds are emitted each year from the 50,000 auto body shops in the U.S. — EPA

We have a significantly high number of residents who have been diagnosed with serious cancers in their 40s and 50s in the six houses directly downwind of this business – **6 serious cases of cancer in 4 of those households all diagnosed under 55**, which is significantly below the average age for most cancer diagnoses.

The houses on this end of the block are already potentially exposed to toxic dry cleaning chemicals including perchloroethylene leaked into our groundwater from the former dry cleaner Clo-Spin Cleaners at 1398 St. Clair (just one house from our house) and next door to the auto body shop. In 2018 we were contacted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Landmark Environmental, LLC to inform us that the dry cleaner's chemicals are spilled into our groundwater and that inspectors needed to test through the floor of our basement to find out how far the toxic spill has spread.

Harvard reports a dramatic rise in cancers diagnosed before 50 years old, becoming increasingly common with each generation. When is enough enough?

"*The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence — It is to act with yesterday's logic*." — Management Consultant Peter Drucker

We ask you to please protect public health and help this business relocate to an area like Energy Park or Pierce Butler where a business that is regularly emitting toluene, xylene and other carcinogenic chemicals from its solvents and paints into our air belongs. This non-conforming use of this property zoned single family residential that is endangering public health should end now.

The State of Minnesota's Public Health Department declares, "*Everyone has the right to breathe clean air! Clean air is essential for human **health**, thriving ecosystems, and a sustainable economy*."

This year the United Nations formally passed a resolution codifying that all people have a right to live in a "*clean, healthy, sustainable environment*."

How do you balance a man's desire to make money with public health and human rights? You find a compromise, so that that person can continue to operate a small business, and he can do that in a location that minimizes the impact of the chemicals he is releasing on the public's health.

Maya Angelou so wisely provided us a guide for the way forward, "*Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better*."

Please do not re-license this business to continue emitting carcinogens at 1400 Saint Clair Avenue.

Thank you for considering my input and heeding science to do your part in reducing cancer rates in Saint Paul

communities.

Very truly yours,
Melanie Peterson-Nafziger
1386 Saint Clair Avenue

From:	Melanie Peterson-Nafziger
To:	*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing
Cc:	#CI-StPaul_Ward3; Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_Mayor; artpunyko@gmail.com; Alexa Golemo
Subject:	Citizen opposing renewal of auto body license for 1400 Saint Clair Avenue (lot zoned single-family residential)
Date:	Friday, September 2, 2022 11:14:37 AM

Dear St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections and Legislative Hearing Officer,

I am writing to you regarding the license application for the auto body shop Haas Collision & Glass at 1400 St. Clair Avenue. I am deeply opposed to you renewing this license for a toxic business that emits carcinogens into our densely populated community for a number of reasons:

- This business consistently has a plume of visible and smellable carcinogenic vapors blowing into our neighborhood. Over the past 15 years they have been cited by inspectors for violations in their filtration systems. They operate with all of their doors open on a daily basis, reducing whatever air filtration benefits there might be. On a regular basis our backyard is so full of paint fumes from Haas Collision & Glass that we cannot be outside and have to close our windows.
- The block of residents directly downwind (east) of this business (ages in their 40s and 50s) has been plagued by cancer in the last 15 years. I have been fighting breast cancer for the last 3 years and live two houses from this business (1386 St. Clair). My neighbor across the alley has had ovarian cancer twice in the last 10 years (1381 Berkeley). The neighbor next door to her has had breast cancer (1379 Berkeley). The neighbor next door to them (1377 Berkeley) is currently undergoing a lifesaving bone cancer treatment. A few houses away another neighbor has recently fought breast cancer. These are just the immediate neighbors; I have not polled folks I don't know to find out who else is plagued with diseases caused by ongoing exposure to carcinogens emitted by Haas Collision & Glass.
- Our neighborhood wrote letters and testified in person to Marcia Moermond last time the City asked for citizens' input about this auto body shop (10-15 years ago). We warned about cancer risks, and since the City chose to renew the license for this toxic business on a lot zoned single-family residential, all of the cancer cases described above have emerged within half a block downwind of this toxic business. Please don't ignore us again! It's time for this business to move to a piece of property where its fumes won't destroy the lives of the surrounding community.
- This business breaks the recommended license conditions that you sent on a daily basis:

1. Everyday during the day and overnight both sides of Albert Street are lined with crashed vehicles (please see just a few attached photos I have taken of the daily problem since receiving your letter). It's an eyesore, embarrassing, and against the law; it's clear this business needs to find a bigger piece of property if it would like to store this number of vehicles awaiting repairs.
2. The business consistently parks crashed cars on the public right-of-way boulevard (sometimes even hanging over onto the sidewalk) during the day and overnight. My husband has called the city about this over 20 times over the past 5-10 years talking with inspectors and police officers. The behavior has not changed. I am certain the city would not allow private residents to park our cars on the boulevards. Why does a business emitting carcinogens and creating a visual blight in the neighborhood on a piece of property zoned single-family-residential in a residential neighborhood get a pass on this law?

3. The business works on cars in the public right-of-way out on the boulevard, driveway and street, often with bumpers lying on the boulevard and/or sidewalk, and other pieces of cars being removed, installed, or being prepped for painting.

Please, fix the mistake that the City of St. Paul originally made when it allowed a toxic business like this to open on a single-family lot. We residents begged the City to stop allowing a toxic business on a single-family lot when DSI was considering a license renewal about 10-15 years ago, and now having lost my breasts to cancer, having survived chemotherapy, and being forced to have a hysterectomy on November 4, 2022, due to cancer, I beg you, close this business on this site. We know the science on carcinogens in densely populated neighborhoods. Our block is sick with a disease caused by the chemicals this business is emitting. The business is not following the cities' laws and has not been following them since I moved here in 1999. Please hear the people's voices and our very valid concerns and requests. If the City decides to ignore our pleas again for this license renewal for Haas Collision & Glass, I intend to bring this story to the local media.

Thank you for considering my input,
Melanie Peterson-Nafziger
1386 Saint Clair Avenue

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Melanie Peterson-Nafziger
LinkedIn