

From: [Linda](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Downtown Improvement Special Service District and Proposed Annual Service Charge
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:20:44 PM

Dear City Council,

As a downtown resident on 9TH ST E. for ten years I support this proposal and I am willing to pay the Annual Service Charge.

For the last six years I have been a part-time caretaker for my grandchildren. Based on the worsening filth, drug needles found in nearby parks, and increase in crime, I decided not to take the children outside, use the skyways, or light rail. This did not used to be the case. With my first grandchild there was much to safely explore. Sadly, since the pandemic, it has gotten worse in Lowertown.

I have heard good things about improvements in the core of downtown and I want to reap the likely benefits of park and street life with the initiation of this project.

Thank you for supporting this Improvement project.
Linda Brooks

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Wendy Nielsen](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Downtown Improvement for St Paul
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:57:01 AM

Hello,

I am writing in opposition as a homeowner in Lowertown, in St. Paul, about the proposed establishment of a comprehensive downtown improvement special service district.

Our tax dollars pay for the upkeep of downtown St. Paul and I do not believe we need to spend more of our money towards one more group. I appreciate what the new team is doing for clean up downtown. I don't think we need more.

Thank you,
Wendy Nielsen
406 Wacouta Street Unit 303
St. Paul MN 55101

From: [William Baker](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to Special Service District Expansion
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:46:35 AM

Dear Council Members -

My wife and I purchased a condominium in Lowertown, St. Paul eight years ago. We initially enjoyed the vibrancy of the area. Now many restaurants and retail businesses have closed, vagrants (some violent) have become a full-time feature of the landscape, tenants of the low income housing that dominates the area are increasingly obnoxious and destructive, and many sidewalks and storefronts sit filthy and unattended. There is really never a morning when I don't step outside with my dog to find fresh wrappers, bottles and cans strewn on the ground, dog poop left for someone else to deal with, soiled and discarded clothing etc. Overall we are far less thrilled with the area than we used to be.

So I agree there is definitely a need to devote increased resources to making Lowertown more safe and presentable. My complaint is that it is outrageous to impose related costs on the property-owning residents of Lowertown, **virtually all of whom are conscientious, law-abiding people who pick up litter rather than drop it**. Apart from badly-behaving vagrants, and slumlords who don't maintain their property, almost all the problems in this area are caused by the crowds who come to Lowertown to drink in bars, listen to music, watch a St. Paul Saints game, go to the farmer's market, etc. I see these people park at the curb in front of my condo, roll down their window, dump their trash on the ground, and drive away. They finish a drink as they walk to their car, and they toss their cup or can into a nearby planter. They pick flowers from the public parks and from private property. They urinate in gardens. They rip branches off of young trees. Far too many don't care about anything and they feel free to do whatever they want to do. The city has known for years that this goes on, but nothing is done about it.

All these visitors certainly benefit the businesses they frequent, but there are too many that behave inappropriately, and they are a bane to area residents. Why then should Lowertown condominium owners bear a major portion of the financial cost of these clean-up efforts? How are these costs any more my responsibility than someone who lives in Highland Park or the East Side?

Please recognize that you are not planning to tax me to "improve" anything. You are planning to tax me and my neighbors—ON TOP OF PROPERTY TAXES THAT ARE ALREADY RIDICULOUSLY HIGH—so that **other** people can continue to litter freely. I

expect this approach will result in ever-increasing budgets for the proposed new special service district, but no matter how much is spent, there will always be filth in Lowertown. Nothing will change unless and until you decide to address the root problems of widespread disrespect and misbehavior.

I strenuously object to the proposed new district and urge you not to establish it. The city should find a solution that does not require Lowertown resident-owners to bear costs that morally and logically should not be their responsibility.

Sincerely,

William C. Baker
222 8th ST E
St. Paul

From: [zainool rahman](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Downtown Improvement.
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 8:47:13 AM

I opposed this assessment. I tired of lawlessness downtown. There is no consequences for bad behaviors. Unless something something drastic happens i oppose it.

From: [Laura Cecko](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Downtown Improvement Special Service District
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 8:18:07 AM

Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to any new service charges being proposed to property tax payers within the city. Duties to improve safety, clean up, and upkeep programs should be basic core functions of the city council which should be funded by current property tax dollars instead of being an additional cost to the tax payers. The city council ought to consider reevaluating the budget with the existing revenue the city collects without increasing the tax burden on its residents who are already feeling the constraints of inflation and rising costs of living expenses. Please consider ways to reduce the cost of living for your residents instead of increasing our expenses even further.

Thank you,

Laura Cecko
St. Paul resident

From: [Paula Christianson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Paula Christianson](#)
Subject: Downtown Improvement District Petition of Minnesota Statue section 428A.08
Date: Monday, July 15, 2024 8:30:51 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of River Park Lofts in Lowertown:
406 Wacouta Street Unit 315
St Paul, MN 55101-2051

I am emailing you today to put in my objection for this proposed service for the DID
I have been a resident here of Lowertown since 2010 and a St Paul resident for 20+ years. I don't understand the extreme push for this, I have never felt unsafe. I am even a single female with a small dog that I walk alone at all hours.

I was under the impression our taxes were already raised, raised to cover the group St Paul Alliance and that project...

Now you are asking us for more money. Basically, you want the residents and businesses to cover the costs for your ambassador's uniforms, bicycles, helmets, walkie talkies, tools, supplies, training, equipment and salary...

The brochure I received talks about a New Community Prosecutor, which we will be paying for that too.

What happens when the ambassadors, the new community prosecutor or these board members want a raise or want more money?

None of these board members (except one) even live here. So they "work" down here, or so they say, but do they actually spend time down here and time outside or in the community to justify asking the people who actually live here to pay for and fund their idea?

At what point are our already overly high taxes enough?

They are outrageous already and now you want us to voluntarily (or forcibly) pay for this? Do we live in the age of the mafia and paying for protection?

That is exactly what this feels like. This is ridiculous....

At what point isn't any of this the Governor, Mayor, City Council, County, Police Chief, Police Department and everyone else's responsibility that we voted in and pay our taxes to, that we have to form a "group" to clean and protect...

Will our taxes keep going up?

This seems crazy to me.

St Paul's, Ramsey County's taxes are already outrageously high and it seems like these people have done less and less since 2020 and now you want us to pay you more and more and more and more?

Where did you all come up with this amount per person/household?

Why are you coming after individual residents?

What if we decide this isn't worth it after we join and we want to get out?

We are stuck...

What services are actually provided to each neighborhood or building?

None of this has actually been answered when asked.

How do we actually get all questions answered?

The meetings held didn't do that, they just went round and round.

I heard West 7th Street neighborhood declined this same proposal (I read the published article) because their questions were not being properly answered and they questioned the same things above?

I am actually pretty angry about all this.

I am a single income person. I moved here because I LOVE St Paul.

I knew I wanted to live in Lowertown when I was 12 years old.

It was artsy, fun and cool when I moved here. Now I am slowly being priced out and soon I will probably have to move because I cannot afford to live here any longer. Between taxes, property taxes, rent/mortgages, HOA's, parking, costs of events , prices of things, and costs of new things going in and then things like this..

Why live in an area you love, if you can't afford to go out in it and support it and support the establishments any longer.

Greed has taken over.

The city is not unsafe. It is a city, be aware of your surroundings.

Like any other big city.

I am frustrated and could keep going, so I am going to stop.

I hope you understand some of the frustration coming from people who are just trying to stay here and survive in the city they love and want to support.

I don't want another payment, I want to get ahead.

Give me a trash bag and litter picker upper and I will go out there myself.

I apologize for throwing up on you via email, I hope you have a good evening,

Thank you for your time,

Paula Christianson