

From: [Kristin Koziol](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: Fw: No to St Paul Downtown Improvement District
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:42:58 PM

please attach to the record

From: David Palo <davidbpalo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:42 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: No to St Paul Downtown Improvement District

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

Good Morning,

I hope this email finds you well, and is in time to voice my concerns around the St Paul Improvement District. DIDs have been shown to target black and brown residents at an unjust rate and do not improve overall safety. St Paul's budget should go to fixing the core issues such as affordable housing and social services.

Thanks for representing all of us in Ward 4

--

David Palo
(612) 715-4695
DavidBPalo@gmail.com

From: [Johnson, Shelby D](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Council](#)
Subject: Opposition to the DID
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:34:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

Hello,

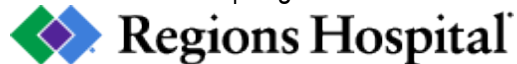
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of the 'improvement' district. The expansion of the DID will funnel more city and county resources into criminalizing and prosecuting people in downtown St. Paul for simply existing in the public space, and targets poor people and black and brown people. As a resident and citizen I sincerely oppose this and call on my city council to take moral and responsible action to stop the downtown improvement district.

Sincerely,

Shelby

Your partner for good

Shelby D. Johnson, BCC, M.Div. (she/they)
Staff Chaplain, Spiritual Care Department
Tel. 651-254-1626 | Page 651-629-0369



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From: [Elowyn Pfeiffer](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Opposing the expansion of the Downtown Improvement District
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:08:56 AM

Hello,

I am writing with my opposition to the expansion of the Downtown Improvement District.

If we believe Saint Paul should be a place where all people feel safe, we must take a more critical look at the proposed expansion of the Downtown Improvement District (DID). The expansion of the district focuses on decreasing quality of life crimes: highly subjective crimes like loitering that are most often used to justify increased surveillance and arrests of poor people and Black and brown people. Our city and county money should be invested in improving the lives of all of the diverse people who live in and spend time in Saint Paul, instead of an enforcement, surveillance, and prosecution program based on a disproven theory of public safety.

The proposal put forth to expand the DID clearly relies on the broken windows theory, a [widely criticized and discredited](#) theory that hypothesizes that punishing low-level infractions such as loitering, panhandling, and graffiti, prevents serious crime. Despite being in practice in major U.S cities since the 80s, the impacts of these policing practices have not proven to have a measurable impact on crime. This approach to public safety focuses on the enforcement and prosecution of “quality of life crimes” through additional safety ambassadors, bike patrol, and the funding of a community prosecutor.

The subjectivity of “quality of life crimes” allows for unequal targeting of individuals and groups based on race, gender expression, class, ability and sexuality. Regarding the broken window theory, researchers Robert Sampson and Stephen Raudenbush found [“if two neighborhoods had exactly the same amount of graffiti and litter and loitering, people saw more disorder, more broken windows, in neighborhoods with more African-Americans.”](#)

At a time where our public schools are facing harsh budget cuts, I am deeply concerned to see our city considering investing funds into a proposal that will not address the core issues our city is facing (education, housing, food insecurity, access to health care etc,) and instead will punish people who are most marginalized in our city - Black, brown and Indigenous people, people with mental illness, young people, unhoused people, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people and poor people.

Thank you,

Elowyn Pfeiffer

From: [Kayla Thao](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: Take care of our downtown areas SPDID
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:06:56 AM

Hi Greg,

Are you taking these emails?

Kayla

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathleen Klumb <k_klumb@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 10:30 AM

To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Take care of our downtown areas SPDID

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

Good morning,

I live in downtown St. Paul and would appreciate your support in helping to improve our safety and the general cleanliness we like.

The Downtown Improvement District has proven to help and now it's time to expand it. I am willing to pay my share in getting that done and many of my neighbors are happy to as well. Sometimes all they need is clarification that the fee is yearly - some mistakenly think it would be monthly. Others believe the city should take care of all of this with the money we already pay. That isn't possible and it isn't the way other cities have successfully improved their downtowns.

In your meeting please have the representatives explain that clearly and vote yes to expand the SPDID.

Thank you

Kathleen Klumb
78 E.10th Street
#2405
St. Paul, MM 55101

From: [Mike McAvoy](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#); [Rebecca Noecker](#)
Subject: Special Service District Questions
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 8:03:30 AM

City Council

I am unable to attend today's public hearing on this topic. I have questions

1. Why will just property owners of this area be taxed vs all city property owners? Conversely, I have been taxed for the improvement of the Ford Plant development, even though I'm not using this area. Seems like a users tax vs all city tax. Why not redistribute some of our already too high taxes to this endeavor if it is compelling to get into place.
2. Why are you proposing to tax commercial businesses, and at a higher rate than residential owners, if at all? If you really want to encourage commerce in Lowertown, you should be offering businesses TIFs or at least a tax discount. Your messages seem to be conflicting.
3. Most importantly what objectively measured outcomes for this district will be monitored and shared with the public on regular intervals. That said, what are the current measures that are established as baselines?

Thank you,

Mike McAvoy

Mike McAvoy
289 5th Street East #605
St. Paul, MN 55101
218-290-2889

From: [Zachary Morris](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Council](#)
Subject: Stop the Downtown Improvement District
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:52:58 PM

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

Hello,

I'm a resident of the twin cities. I'm incredibly disappointed to hear of st paul's interest in expanding the DID when that expansion would inherently affect black and brown people, the homeless, and others through the prosecution of stupid laws. And why make this important meeting set during the middle of a work day in the middle of a work week? Knowing you could not listen to your constituents.

Please think of putting that money into programs that prevent crime and not expand our surveillance state, punishing those who need support.

Thank you,
Zachary Morris

From: [Polly Heintz](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: District Expansion please vote yes
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:35:07 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Clinton Blaiser <cblaiser@hbgltd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Clinton Blaiser <cblaiser@hbgltd.net>
Subject: District Expansion please vote yes

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

My name is Clinton Blaiser

I live and work downtown St Paul.

My home is in Park Towers, my office is at the Northwestern, I manage and/or own Pioneer Endicott, Jackson Ramp, Hamm, Osborn 370, Lowry basement, Alarys and Heritage House.

St Paul like all other cities have issues right now and we all know it.

Instead of just complaining and doing nothing more than complain I've had the honor and privilege to be the president of the first St Paul DID and have witnessed its success and effectiveness.

I'm happy to pay more to expand the district and make the rest of downtown safer and cleaner.

Also, I have paid my reals estate taxes unlike some complainers that have not paid almost 2.3 million dollars of first half taxes and penalties.

Thank you for your consideration, feel free to call or email and please vote yes.

Respectively,

Clinton Blaiser

President CEO | cblaiser@hbgltd.net

Halverson and Blaiser Group Ltd.

275 East 4th St., Ste. 720 St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 952-767-4100

www.hbgltd.com | www.awesomeapts.com



From: [Jon Fure](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: CapitolRiver Council - District 17 support for Ordinance 24-17
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:40:51 PM
Attachments: [Letter-support for DID-July-2024.pdf](#)

Please see the attached letter of support.

Jon Fure, Executive Director

CapitolRiver Council
423 Landmark Center
75 West 5th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Office: 651-221-0488

Cell: 651-707-7757

office@capitolrivercouncil.org

www.capitolrivercouncil.org

My pronouns are he / him ([Pronouns matter](#))



CapitolRiver Council

423 Landmark Center
75 West 5th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

(651) 221-0488
www.capitolrivercouncil.org

July 17, 2024

Council President Mitra Jalali
Councilmember Saura Jost
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
Councilmember Hwa Jeong Kim
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson

Dear Council President Jalali and Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of the CapitolRiver Council (CRC) Board of Directors in support of Ordinance 24-17. The CRC board discussed this proposal at two recent meetings. Each time this was discussed, there were questions asked about the amount of money that would be raised, the services that would be provided, the composition of the governing body that would oversee this work, and other aspects of this proposal. Board members expressed confidence that the proposed Downtown Improvement District would improve livability throughout the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Jon Fure, Executive Director
CapitolRiver Council

From: [D.GOODLAXSON](#)
To: [CouncilHearing_English \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 2 seconds)
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 3:04:43 PM
Attachments: [audio.mp3](#)

Hi, my name is Donna Good Blackson. I'm in Ward 4 Mitra Jalali district and I've been reading about the expansion of the downtown Improvement District. I have some concerns about that. I think we need to pause any passage on that for now. It sounds like it privatizes the legal system. It sounds like it increases surveillance, and it sounds like it targets poor people and black and brown people. And I find all of those things concerning. I don't think that our public funds to be used for corporate and that's what this sounds like. So my number is 715-307-1730. I'm sorry that I missed that Tuesday deadline and new to leaving public comments, but I would love to hear back from someone again. Donna, good luck soon. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [D.GOODLAXSON](#).

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