From: Phil Aitken
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: OBJECTION to File MO2502 Assessment 255505
Date: Sunday, November 2, 2025 7:42:01 PM

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To the City Council,

I strenuously object to the new assessment proposed to pay for new street pavement in my neighborhood. I do not have $600.00 to suddenly give to the City as a special assessment, but my assessment has been calculated to be $599.40. This is, frankly, absurd. I am a State employee, and I am aware the State has had budget difficulties this year. I assume the City is attempting to wring more money out of taxpayers with this assessment because of similar financial mismanagement.

The practice for the past few years in the city has been to increase taxes on everybody through policies like instituting the additional sales tax instead of placing additional taxes on the wealthy. The City continues to place undue financial burdens on everyday taxpayers instead of properly managing its budget.

I am also insulted that the City would begin such widespread street reconstruction efforts this year such as on Rice Street and in my neighborhood, North End, without knowing how to pay for it. The streets in my neighborhood have already been repaved. This new assessment says to me that the City proposes to stick me and my neighbors with the bill. This is patently ridiculous and immensely harmful to our communities.

I am also irritated that the Council would wait until *after* Election Day to discuss this. You *must* know that this assessment would be deeply unpopular. Therefore, it feels like an act of cowardice to have live testimony on this only after we have had the opportunity to vote for different Council candidates. I urge you: *do not* approve this assessment. I will note with keen interest which members of the Council vote to make the community pay for their poor financial management.

Sincerely,

Phillip Aitken