From: Jen Thomsen
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: 2025 Mill and Overlay - Hatch/Park Residential Area
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 11:23:42 AM

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11-5-2025

Saint Paul City Council
File #: M02502

ASSESSENT #: 255505

Dear City Officials,

I am writing in regards to the assessment for the 2025 Mill and Overlay - Hatch/Park Residential Area # 255505; to formally contest the additional assessment for road paving that has been proposed for our area. Our community has already contributed significantly to public infrastructure costs through various tax mechanisms, and it is unreasonable to place further financial burdens on families already struggling to make ends meet.

The residents of our neighborhood pay property taxes, agreed to a 1% sales tax for Public Works, and are subject to additional assessments for infrastructure improvements. It is important to note that it is not the responsibility of private citizens to bear the full cost of road paving through supplemental assessments. The 2025 City of St. Paul Budget clearly outlines numerous funding sources for road repair, including capital improvement bonds (voted upon and funded by property taxes), the Street Maintenance Program, state and federal discretionary funds, and street reconstruction bonds. These funds, which are generated through taxes we already pay, should be more effectively allocated to cover infrastructure needs like road paving and repair.

At present, the neighborhood is not seeing equitable improvements in key areas. Our community contributes taxes comparable to other areas, yet there are limited enhancement programs in the budget for our district. Despite these contributions, our area faces systemic challenges—such as underfunded schools, struggling local businesses, a deteriorating downtown and a food desert—that need immediate attention.

Adding another financial burden in the form of this assessment is not only unjust but also harmful. Many residents in our neighborhood are already grappling with the economic fallout from the discontinuation of the SNAP program, escalating health insurance premiums, stagnating wages, and the rising cost of living. These economic pressures are making it increasingly difficult for families to stay in their homes and maintain a decent quality of life. Forcing additional, unanticipated assessments onto our community will only accelerate displacement, causing families to seek more affordable living options elsewhere. Additionally, the Holidays are coming upon us and an assessment over $600 can take away an entire Thanksgiving and Christmas for families.

The fundamental role of local government is to ensure the well-being of its residents by providing essential services —such as education, healthcare, housing, and public infrastructure. However, our neighborhood is already seeing limited support in key areas. For example, our schools, which serve as critical anchors in our community, have poor ratings (1/10 and 2/10 for the elementary and high school, respectively). Deficits in public services, coupled with the

pressures of rising taxes and assessments, will only exacerbate the challenges families face.

In conclusion, the imposition of an additional road paving assessment is both unreasonable and unfair, given that our community has already paid for street paving and infrastructure improvements through bonds, taxes, and sales tax contributions. The City's primary responsibility is to ensure the well-being of its residents through responsible use of public funds and to maintain essential infrastructure such as roads and public services. It is not the responsibility of hard-working citizens to bear the costs of these projects through additional assessments.

I respectfully request that the City reconsider this proposed assessment and explore alternative funding options that will not further burden our residents. Our community is already facing significant challenges, and the last thing we need is to be pushed further into economic hardship. I look forward to your response and hope that the City will take my concerns seriously.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thomsen

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