

(Email sent to Mayor Coleman)

I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting on proposed property tax increases, but need to express my deep concerns about your proposed tax levy increase and increase in the cost to property owners for city service fees for maintenance of streets etc. It is simply

My name is Ann Johnson. I have lived in St. Paul since 1982 when I moved here to attend the University of St. Thomas. I purchased a home in 1991. I have enjoyed St. Paul and had hoped to continue to live here.

Since the time I purchased my home in 1991, my property taxes have more than tripled. I had paid off my home and had planned to continue to live here for many more years. I am unhappy with the proposal of the City of St. Paul to continue to raise our property taxes, without regard to how they are affecting the homeowners of St. Paul. You are making our homes unaffordable, and you may force people like me, who are longstanding citizens and contributors to St. Paul to leave this area. I understand the city has responsibilities, but we DO NOT have to shoulder ALL burdens, and this must definitely be shifted to a different funding source for future needs.

In these tough economic times, we have all taken a hit. I personally have taken about a 30% pay cut in the last two years. You must tighten your belts too. It is unfair that you continue to raise our taxes and do not cut your own spending, while we are suffering and you may drive us out of our homes. You must find other sources of revenue that are fair and equitable, and find ways to reduce your costs. It is unfair and unreasonable to keep raising the taxes and putting this huge burden on the homeowners of St. Paul.

I would ask you to vote against an increase in this tax levy and city service fees now and in the future and encourage you to find creative ways to cut costs and find other sources of revenue as needed. I would also appreciate a response to my concerns.

Ann Johnson

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