

Councilmember Stark,

I want to express my concerns about and opposition to the "traffic calming" project being proposed for Charles Avenue. I live on Minnehaha, the busiest residential street in the neighborhood and will not support spending city money to "calm traffic" on this comparatively quiet street. Like voter ID, this seems to be a solution in search of a problem.

Last month, I attended one of the presentations on this project and had the chance to hear the rationale presented and listen to the planners speak to the benefits of this project. I attended because my church is on Charles, and I know that first hand the traffic patterns on that street.

Here are my questions to you:

- Why are we trying to fix a traffic problem that doesn't exist on a comparative scale?
- Who has or will conduct an environmental impact study on the effects of this on the noise, traffic and quality of life of those who will have traffic pushed onto their streets from the already quite tame Charles Avenue? It's irresponsible to proceed without that.
- Why have so few people off of Charles Avenue been notified of this? The Charles Avenue block parties did not, as far I can tell from conversations I've had, invite people from adjoining streets to get involved with what was being planned. There is a perception among many I've talked to that this has deliberately been done in stealth mode because it will improve the quality of life on Charles while degrading it for the rest of us.
- Why isn't this effort being directed first at Minnehaha, the worst street in the neighborhood, and then at Thomas, the next worst street? I understand about the bicycle traffic on Charles, but I invite you to do your own comparative survey of bicycles on Minnehaha. I've done a bit of counting on both streets and it appears to be much higher on Minnehaha than on Charles.

I will oppose this project until I get satisfactory answers to these questions. I think the plans are great, but are being applied to one of the nicer streets to live on first, rather than where the problems are the worst. Of course we all want all traffic off of our own streets, and I admit that the Charles Avenue folks out organized the rest of us. That doesn't mean that the project makes sense from the perspective of the neighborhood, which is made up of more than just Charles Avenue.

Dave Olson