Opposition Petition to Lunda Construction's requested sound level variance

We, the undersigned, are providing notice to the Saint Paul City Council of our opposition to Lunda Construction's requested sound level variance, in connection with the demolition of the Lafayette bridge. The current requested variance is to approve demolition activities 24 hours a day, Monday through Saturday, April 20, 2013 to May 3, 2013.

The residents of the Tilsner Artists building and surrounding community have endured years of construction in the Lowertown area. Although it is recognized that such construction is for the benefit of the community, the short-term impact on the residents of the Lowertown community is significant. The effect of 24-hour demolition on the residents of the Tilsner Artisst building and other Lowertown community members cannot be understated. The loss of sleep over the course of two continuous weeks of demolition and a complete encroachment on the covenant of quiet enjoyment is severe, and can be detrimental to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of the affected community members.

Further, we question why this specific timeframe (April 20 through May 3) was selected for demolition work. As you are aware one of the major events every year for the Saint Paul Lowertown community is the Saint Paul Art Crawl. Thousands of visitors will arrive in Lowertown Saint Paul the weekend of April 26, 27, and 28 for the Spring Art Crawl, and the two buildings which are major cornerstones of this event — which house more artists and hence receive more visitors than any other buildings in Lowertown — are right next to the Lafayette bridge. These two buildings are the Tilsner Artisst building and the Northern building. We do not feel that a significant event such as the Saint Paul Art Crawl, which receives considerable funding and donations from organizations and individual donors to remain successful, should in any way be negatively impacted by demolition events.

Please take the above reasoning and the support, illustrated by the signatures below, as evidence that the current noise level variance is strongly opposed. Again, the residents of the Tilsner and surrounding community are not opposed to the necessary construction in general. However, we respectfully request that this Council grant more amenable hours of construction that provide our community residents with daily overnight quiet hours during the demolition period, and that do not disturb the Saint Paul Spring Art Crawl.

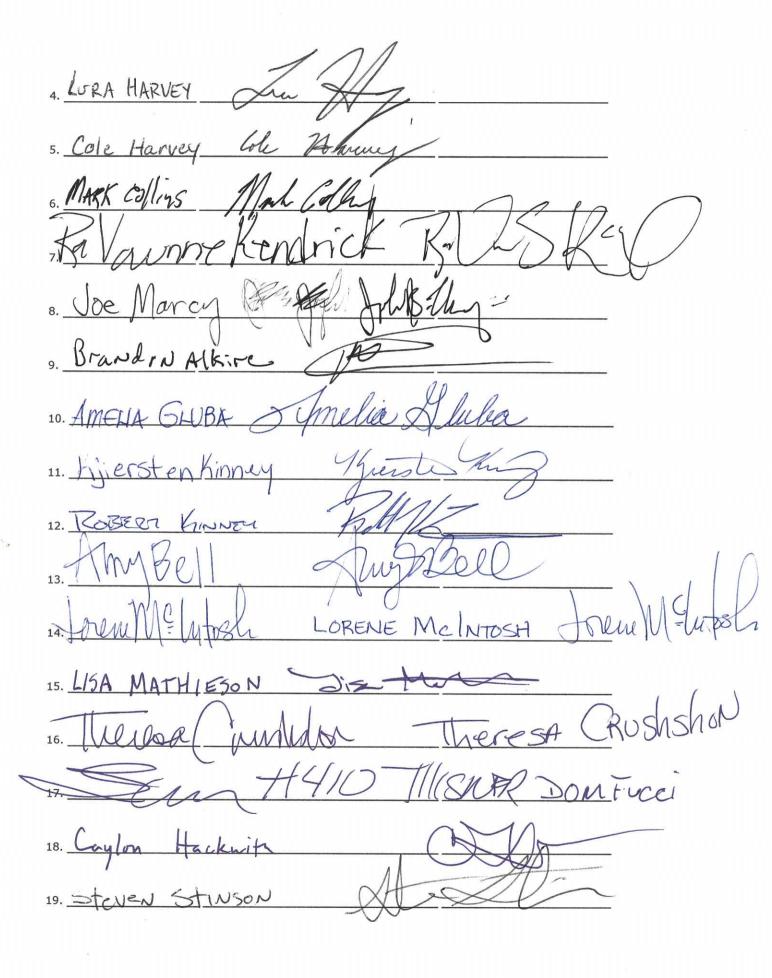
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