

FYI only...The following email was sent today to Rep. Mariani, Sen Papas, Speaker Thissen, House Majority Leader Murphy, and Senate Majority Leader Bakke, with a cc to Mayor Coleman, and Fred Melo at the Pioneer Press. I hope you all can assist us as well.

Dear Rep. Mariani:

I write with a sense of urgency.

I am a resident of the Market House, the condominium in Lowertown, St. Paul which is losing its parking lot through Eminent Domain to build the Saints stadium. As defined in Sec. 12 117.187 of Chapter 214—S.F.No.2750 “When an owner must relocate, the amount of damages payable, at a minimum, must be sufficient for an owner to **purchase a comparable property** in the community...”

As of today, the city has found no alternative parking for sale for our homes. It has refused to include replacement parking in its design of the new stadium. It has, through its lawyers, told us our parking lot will be closed June 30. As individuals we are all scrambling to find rental spots. There is no “comparable property” available to “purchase.”

Rental lots, at an equivalent distance, are \$106/month. I plan on living in this condo for at least 20 years. That will cost me \$25,440 (plus inflation, plus the loss of my property value as MarketHouse will be the only condo downtown without parking). The city is offering a payment far less than half of this. Cheaper lots are at least five blocks away.

I support the new stadium and want to be a good neighbor. However, I ask you to respectfully consider this thought...How would you feel if your driveway and garage were forcibly taken from you? Your new parking was several blocks away. All your neighbors retained their garages so when you go to sell your house, the price plummets. The compensation you are given is determined by someone else- far below the replacement cost.

I don't believe I am being histrionic. This is happening to 36 tax-paying homeowners in the Market House. Please assist us.

Sincerely,

James Bower
Unit #612
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St. Paul, MN