

Dear Mayor Coleman and the Members of the City Council;

The Plan by the City of St. Paul to construct the new Ballpark for the Saint Paul Saints will be a disaster for my spouse and me and for many of our community neighbors living and working in St. Paul's Lowertown.

If the City were to continue with its current plan, I would expect that the St. Paul Farmers Market will eventually disappear. I base this opinion on my experience as a city manager and our long lives in many other American and European cities. Convenient parking will be gone, and the only available parking would be a long walk of a quarter to half-mile away the Market. I can only imagine the difficulty for shoppers who have to carry a week's worth of locally produced vegetables, fruit, meat items, cheese, soap and even flowers back to their cars to go home.

The St. Paul Farmers Market is a major gem of Lowertown during the spring, summer and fall weekends. The various vendors depend not only upon the our neighbors living in the condos and apartments in downtown St. Paul but also the many, many shoppers who drive here from the suburbs. If the Market disappears, the Farmers Market could relocate to these same suburbs. Our Lowertown neighbors would be major losers.

The City has condemned the parking spaces owned by one or more condos owners in Lowertown for the Ballpark project. Sadly, sadly the property values of these condo owners have dropped to low levels.

The City's Plan will eliminate the Lowertown Dog Park causing all the dogs using this facility to create horrible pressure upon the nearby Mears Park. In addition, the Plan will, most likely, force a Christian Church in Lowertown to close. Finally, the Plan will cause much of the business activities relating to the Ballpark in Lowertown to go to sleep during the winter months.

Ideas to improve the Ballpark Plan do exist. The public knows of valid proposals to protect our Farmers Market, develop a winter Farmers Market and provide for year around activities and services. All this could increase more income for the city.

Mr. Mayor, I understand that you have been invited to attend the second of a series of public meetings [*Lowertown Ballpark Community Meeting - The Second Inning*] on Wednesday, April 10, 7

- 8:30 pm at the 180 East Fifth Building (5th and Jackson St.), Great Hall - Jerome Theatre. Please, please help us. We need your leadership. You, along with our special guest Councilmember Dave Thune and others are so important to fix the City's Plan. We want a great Ballpark along with the continuation of the high quality of life that thousands and thousands of our neighbors living in Lowertown expect.

Sincerely,

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