

Dear Councilmember Stark,

I read in the Pioneer Press that there was a public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance to restrict archery in Saint Paul. I have not read the proposed ordinance (unfortunately it was not that easy to locate on the council's website). I am in support of the idea of restricting "backyard" archery. I have a son who is learning archery and we drive out to Stillwater every week so that he can receive lessons and practice the sport in a designated range. I see examples all the time of arrows not going where they are supposed to go and this is by people who are receiving professional instruction. It seems crazy to me that just anybody could pick up a weapon like a bow and arrow and shoot it in their backyard where other people could be harmed. My son shoots light weight arrows that are used for competition. Chances of getting hit by one would not be lethal. However, the arrows hunters use are something very different. My neighbor allows his children to practice archery in the backyard in preparation for their hunting trips. This is not okay. I am supportive of the proposed ordinance if it restricts archery being done outside of an official range. I am also supportive of the sport of archery. If people want to practice archery in Saint Paul then perhaps an archery range should be included in one of the many parks Saint Paul has.

Thanks for your support on this issue.

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