

**From:** Heidi Schallberg [<mailto:heidils@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 04, 2017 10:15 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7; Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul); Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul); Brendmoen, Amy (CI-StPaul); Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul); McMonigal-St Dennis, Barb (CI-StPaul)

**Subject:** Concerns about RES PH 17-286 Sound variance for Ford Pkwy construction

Council Members:

I am unable to attend the public hearing this evening regarding RES PH 17-286, which is a sound level variance request for Ramsey County to do road construction on Ford Pkwy overnight directly in front of multifamily homes. I ask that you at a minimum delay approval of this request until all residents have been directly notified by the city of this request. The notice has been sent only to property owners with instructions to those owners of multifamily buildings to provide copies to residents who rent. It is unclear how the city ensures that this has in fact been done.

The noise from construction on Ford Pkwy will directly impact at least 147 multifamily building units and at least an additional 100 in an assisted living and nursing home at the western end of Ford. Only 28 of the 147 housing units are owned as condos. This work disproportionately impacts residents who rent, and they have not been given the same consideration as residents who own property on adjacent streets.

Is the basic building block of this city people, or is it property? As someone who rents an apartment, I would hope that the City Council's answer is people, as we are all residents of St. Paul. This process, however, values property over people. Why should residents of 1941 Ford Pkwy (condos) get direct notification from the city, but residents of 1929 Ford Pkwy, right next door, or 1936 Ford Pkwy, right across the street, aren't given the same consideration? A sound level variance request is not a property issue but a quality of life issue, and the people affected the most by having construction done in the middle of the night right outside their homes should be given an equal say in whether or not this variance is granted.

I have seen the Council delay many votes over time due to concerns about process and concerns from people about many issues. I'd like to see you give that same consideration here to ensure those affected most directly have been given the same direct notification by the city. To proceed is to disregard the value of those residents who happen to not own the building they call home.

The city has a racial equity initiative, which is encouraging. I'd like to remind you that this metro area has disproportionate homeownership by race. Reference a recent Star Tribune article about how we have the lowest rates of homeownership for black households in the country: <http://www.startribune.com/already-low-homeownership-rates-of-twin-cities-minorities-fall-further-down/441087863/> Over half of the housing units in St. Paul are rented. It's safe to assume that many of those include people of color as residents.

Continuing city processes that privilege property owners over residents will not move this city forward on the goal of racial equity in city services and community engagement. You can start by changing with this one process for this one request and then change it to be more equitable for

all city residents. Please ensure that throughout the city residents who rent are on the same level of inclusion as those who own.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Schallberg  
706 MRB S #204  
55116