



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

November 29, 2017

Jane L. Prince
Ward 7 - St. Paul City Council Member
320-C City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102

RECEIVED

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CITY COUNCIL
WARD 7

Dear Jane L. Prince, St. Paul City Council Member of Ward 7:

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of the St. Paul Province have been expressing a love of our dear neighbors without distinction for over 150 years by serving those most in need in our community, by welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and comforting the afflicted and those experiencing homelessness.

As people of faith, we are deeply concerned by the restriction placed on Listening House to ONLY serve twenty (20) people experiencing homelessness per day by the City's Planning Commission. This arbitrary limitation was placed upon Listening House as a major condition of their use permit to offer services to the homeless at their new site in the basement of First Lutheran Church in the Swede Hollow Neighborhood. This restriction came months after Listening House properly applied and was granted permission by the City's Planning Office Staff to provide services to people experiencing homeless in accord with the mission of the church at this new location. We believe that Listening House's location in First Lutheran Church is consistent with the mission of places of worship of every faith. We would hope that the City would collaborate with and support faith-based institutions, like the Sisters of St. Joseph, First Lutheran Church, and Listening House, in responding to the needs of people in our St. Paul community that are the most vulnerable.

We also feel that the services Listening House provides are critical to meeting the needs of people who experience poverty, homelessness, and a lack of access to basic needs at this time especially as we enter the cold winter season. Furthermore, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported on Oct. 28th that there is a 22% surge in homelessness in Ramsey County this year. We know that the issue of homelessness is a community problem which faith communities, the City of St. Paul, and public service agencies must all work together to address.

We hope that you, Council Member Prince, will publicly support a long-term and peaceful resolution to the Determination for Similar Use (DSU) for Listening House of St. Paul while also boldly meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our city. Please remove the limitations placed on Listening House to serve only 20 homeless guests per day at the Dec. 6th City Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Hames, CSJ
Susan Hames, CSJ

Suzanne Herder, CSJ
Suzanne Herder, CSJ

Cathy Steffens, CSJ
Cathy Steffens, CSJ

Leadership Team
of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of the St. Paul Province