

From: J & K CZECH [<mailto:kjczech2015@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2017 6:17 PM

Subject: We love St. Paul, but are sad...

Dear Saint Paul Council Members,

With heavy hearts, my husband and I began the conversation of having to leave St. Paul about 6-7 months ago. When Mayor Coleman's 24% tax proposal hit the news, we knew we had to start the planning; it wasn't just a discussion anymore.

This makes us so very, very sad. We thought we were in our "Forever Home." We bought this place as a run-down, unloved property, then put our own blood, sweat and tears into fixing it up, as well as employed local contractors. We invested here, and not only in our home, in real estate. We also created and have put on for the last 6 years, through the support of many other St. Paul families, a charity event for St. Paul teens and adults with disabilities called "The Really Big Game." Yet, we feel we are being pushed out... and not only us.

My husband attended high school and college in St. Paul. We have two sons – one in high school and one in college. Last night was the football homecoming game for our high schooler. Families got together before and after the game. We attended 3 of these gatherings. There was a lot of conversation about the proposed tax hike and the resounding theme from everyone at each place - WE'RE SICK OF PAYING HIGH TAXES AND WE'RE SOON TO BE TAXED OUT OF OUR HOMES. Families are preparing to leave St. Paul. We know some who already have. You may not realize it, but St. Paul is on the cusp of a mass exodus, certainly if the 24% increase goes through.

Most of the folks we interacted with last night are just like my husband - they happily grew up in St. Paul and wanted nothing more than to give that experience to their kids. None of us wanted a suburban life. I am not a native Minnesotan, but I have been proud to say since 1992 that I'm from St. Paul. Regardless of where we wind up when we move, I know I will not be as proud. Additionally, our son in college says he wants to do as his Dad did – to live, work, marry and raise a family in St. Paul after graduation. But, he most likely won't be able to afford it. It's so sad to be a family pushed out of their hometown and to see other families experiencing the same.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS TAX PROPOSAL! Think about the implications it will have on the strength of your St. Paul neighborhoods. You currently have people living here who invest in their communities and who value the history of the city, because they and their ancestors have been a part of it. Don't ruin this great place called St. Paul, Minnesota.

GIVE US A REASON TO RECONSIDER LEAVING.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Czech

From: Timon Iverson [<mailto:timiversonghm@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:34 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Property Taxes

We received our property tax statements for commercial property our family partnership owns. We have never appealed previous assessments, though our tenants have not been able to pay comparable increases in rent over the years. This year's notice of 2018 assessments, however, show between 20-24% increases (such as 174 West 7th Street) (our own home now shows an 11% increase). I think these commercial assessments are irresponsible in taking such a large proportion of the steadily declining revenues from commercial properties. Such costs simply cannot be passed on to the tenants. Are you concerned about fostering a positive small business climate in Saint Paul? I am sure you are, but you are apparently not seeing that your taxing plans are an unreasonable burden and counterproductive.

Tim Iverson

From: Bob Stupka [<mailto:bstupka@davannis.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul) <russ.stark@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul) <chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul) <Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Commercial Real Estate Taxes

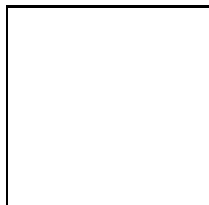
Good morning to you all,

I will be out of town tomorrow so I will not be able to attend the truth in taxation meeting tomorrow. The Pioneer Press did an article this morning on residential property taxes but they made no mention of what the increases look like on the commercial side. I keep hearing about how pro-business St Paul is so I had to relay to you how our Davanni's real estate taxes will be impacted next year. We have two restaurants and our wholesale bakery located in the Crosby Lake Business Park. Our taxes went up 21.6% on average increasing more than \$22,000. It is true that we will be saving some money because some city maintenance bills will be eliminated but we are only talking about a few thousand dollars. Knowing that we will see a \$15 minimum wage passed next year in St Paul there is no way possible we can possibly pass on these additional costs to our customers. A \$30 pizza or a \$10 hoagie would never sell. When our profits are already in the 1-2% range what impact do you think these additional costs will have on our business? I have made the offer before and I will make it again to sit down with any one of you and show you our financials if you doubt my numbers.

After 62 years of living in St Paul my house is going on the market. I don't think you represent me as a life long resident of the city I love or as a St Paul business person.

Bob

PS - Just to compare our Hennepin County tax bills are going down by 2.56% on average and our loan property in Minneapolis will be seeing a decrease in our tax bill of 6.8%.



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