

**From:** Scott Vanwert [<mailto:scottavanwert@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2018 10:58 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Renstrom, Scott (CI-StPaul) <[scott.renstrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:scott.renstrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Lagos, Heidi (CI-StPaul) <[heidi.lagos@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:heidi.lagos@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Letter of Support of Merriam Park 41 Listed Properties Moratorium

Dear Councilmember Bostrom,

I am a lifelong resident of Saint Paul and have lived in Merriam Park since 1992. I am writing you to urge your support for the moratorium to protect 41 properties in the Merriam Park neighborhood while the city completes a survey under the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission auspices to determine which buildings are of significance so the city, the community the neighborhood, and other stakeholders can together determine if a historic district(s) should result. This preservation process including a demolition moratorium to run in parallel is sound and reasonable and a vital part of assuring Saint Paul's quality of life future, as we owe our children a vibrant city with historic buildings and neighborhoods preserved in a reasonable manor.

It's important that this type of moratorium be in place once a study is initiated to allow the survey to be completed so that important structures are not demolished while the study is underway. And the 9 month to 1 year long process used by the city is a reasonably short period to prohibit demolition of buildings that have previously been identified as significant in a study area.

I understand the moratorium does not prevent the sale of any of the properties and that renovations and other modifications can proceed without hindrance, meaning no building owner will suffer any significant hardship from this moratorium. In fact one can expect marketability of properties to rise along with values because the historic visibility and significance of the area has become more elevated through the process. Further, based on the high level of desirability of living in other historical districts of Saint Paul, I believe all property owners will benefit from increased property values when the desirability and livability of an area is being enhanced through preservation of historic structures whether by district designation or by individual owners who value preservation. In fact, I believe it's been proven through the 2008-2010 recession and recovery that homes in historic areas (whether historic districts or not) retain and appreciate value over non-historic structures. (Perhaps the city can provide some insight to share on this topic based on assessed property values during this period.)

In summary, I believe Saint Paul's process for identifying and designating possible heritage protection districts, including a demolition moratorium to run in parallel with the study, is fair and sound and one that will not cause any affected property owner a significant hardship over the short or long term but rather benefit the owners. (I would in fact be proud to be such a designated / listed property owner myself.) Please vote to support this moratorium.

Warm Regards,  
Scott Van Wert  
1985 Marshall Ave  
Saint Paul, MN

From: kevin vereecke [<mailto:kcv5835@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 9:06 AM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

Subject: Merriam Park demo moratorium

Dear Samantha,

Our home, 1924 Iglehart ave, is one of the 41 included in the proposed Merriam Park interim demolition ordinance, and we strongly support the proposed demolition moratorium. It is essential that the appropriate committees have time to develop their evaluation on accurate designations outlining historic significance where and when applicable. Again, we are support of the moratorium.  
Many Thanks, Kevin and Nissa Erickson

From: Roger Larson [<mailto:rbyronlarson@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:49 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
Cc: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
Subject: In favor of the Merriam Park Interim Demolition Ordinance

Dear Council President Brendmoen, and Members of the St. Paul City Council:

I am writing to strongly urge you act wisely and well on behalf of the present and future of St. Paul by voting to approve the proposed 9-month Merriam Park interim demolition ordinance needed to protect my home and 40 others in this vibrant and vital neighborhood long enough to properly survey and appreciate the true value of preserving an important part of St. Paul's historic character for future generations to revitalize and enjoy.

I have lived at 1923 Iglehart Avenue for the past 18 years. My wife and I raised two children in this house, both of whom graduated from St. Paul Central High School. Our son still lives in the neighborhood and hopes someday soon to be able to buy and restore a house in St. Paul, as his parents did. Our daughter now lives in Brooklyn and lives and breathes every day the rue and regret longtime residents there are burdened with, having lost so many defining structures to mindless demolition and the subsequent loss of eminently preservable buildings and neighborhoods. Fortunately, Brooklyn has also enjoyed a measure of success fighting back; it's current high-profile status as "the" place to live and raise families for those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s is a lesson we would do well to learn before it's too late.

For more than 30 years, I attended Olivet Congregational Church, just down the street. I organized summertime reading groups ("Wednesdays With Wendell") focusing on the work of Wendell Berry, the unofficial poet laureate of community, who called communities like ours and others in other neighborhoods in St. Paul, "memberships." We met in the church courtyard of that beautiful historic building designed by Clarence Johnson. The bronze triptych in the courtyard was created by longtime Olivet member, Merriam Park resident (and Godfather to my children), Mike Price, who also created sculptures of F. Scott Fitzgerald in Rice Park, and Bishop John Ireland on the University of St. Thomas campus before his untimely death in 2001.

As the Executive Director of the Child Neurology Society, I communicate daily and count as longtime, good friends neurologists of all ages living in all parts of the country. Many of them, like me, have the good fortune to live in historic homes located in vibrant, well-cared for neighborhoods thanks to forward thinking public servants like yourself who sagely saw the longterm benefits of preserving its character as a diversely growing, organically unfolding community rather than simply a hastily-assembled, quickly outdated, and easily abandoned commercial matrix. Neurologists coming to the see

me or visit our partner organization, the American Academy of Neurology, at its headquarters across from the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, always marvel at the splendid “stable” neighborhoods—including mine—that they see when I take them on a driving or walking tour of St. Paul. To lose something so valuable and irreplaceable as that would be tragic, all the more so given how easily one might avoid making that irretrievable mistake.

We, in the United States, are currently living through a hellish period of reckless waste and destruction to our democratic institutions. It was an entirely avoidable mistake. The costs of undoing the damage done in 14 months and rebuilding in the ruins values and structures constructed and maintained over 240 years are enormous. The scale is different, but the issue is essentially the same, and the stark symbolism easily perceived. There is no need to make a foolish mistake that will soon, and for generations after, be regretted. Please vote in favor of the Merriam Park Interim Demolition Ordinance.

Thanks for your consideration and for your continued conscientious service to this truly grand and inviting city. I will be in Chicago on business and unable to attend the City Council Meeting on April 4, but I will be with you in spirit. Please feel free to contact me with any follow-up questions or concerns.

Regards,

Roger Larson, CAE  
1923 Iglehart Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

**From:** Joel Speer [<mailto:jspeer42758@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:28 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Iglehart Ave

Please support the demo ordinance. 1935 Iglehart, resided 33 years, one of historical homes.

**From:** Lisa Albrecht [<mailto:wordsforlisa@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 3, 2018 10:19 PM  
**To:** Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul) <[libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** In favor of Proposed Ordinance

Dear Libby Kantner, Legislative Aide,

I am writing in support of the Proposed 9-month interim demolition moratorium for the Merriam Park neighborhood that is currently before the City Council. It certainly makes sense to stop demolitions while the Heritage Preservation Division completes their updated Historic Resource Survey in the Merriam Park study area.

This short moratorium would have great benefits as there could be potentially historically-significant properties which could be in danger of being demolished while the survey is still in process. It certainly makes sense that the Historical Survey should **naturally** have such a moratorium in place **as a part of their internal process**.

This moratorium will in essence keep these buildings safe while having no impact on new improvement projects or building additions for the 41 buildings. Please keep our St Paul neighborhood strong and vote for this **sensible** proposal.

Sincerely,

Lisa Albrecht  
1985 Marshall Ave  
St Paul, MN 55104

**From:** ROB [<mailto:wheelerrob@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 3, 2018 3:35 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Moratorium

Dear Council member Henningson,

My name is Rob Wheeler.

I live with my wife, Julie Bolt, at [315 Moore St](#). We have lived here for more than 27 years.

Our home is one of the 41 homes that has been identified as potential historic significance to the City.

We are in favor of the moratorium to protect the [Merriam Park](#) neighborhood which I grew up in.

My family has lived in [Merriam Park](#) since 1960.

We are also in favor of designating [Merriam Park](#) as a historical district.

Respectfully,  
Robert Wheeler and Julie Bolt

**From:** Lori Brostrom [<mailto:lbrostrom@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 3, 2018 11:44 AM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Thao, Dai (CI-StPaul) <[dai.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:dai.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <[Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Bostrom, Dan (CI-StPaul) <[dan.bostrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:dan.bostrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul) <[Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Jane.Prince@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul) <[mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Maki, Taina (CI-StPaul) <[Taina.Maki@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Taina.Maki@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; McMahon, Melanie (CI-StPaul) <[Melanie.McMahon@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Melanie.McMahon@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul) <[libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; OBrien, Kim (CI-StPaul) <[kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Renstrom, Scott (CI-StPaul) <[scott.renstrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:scott.renstrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <[Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** In Favor of the Merriam Park Interim Demolition Ordinance

Dear Council President Brendmoen and Councilmembers Noecker, Thao, Tolbert, Henningson, Bostrom and Prince;

I'm writing to ask for your support for the 9-month Merriam Park interim demolition protections covering the 41 properties surveyed and determined historic and special by the City in 1981. I see these properties in the same light as the properties which the City came so close to losing prior to the formation of Historic Hill District in 1980. It would be a tragedy to lose these beautiful and historic Merriam Park houses, which are currently so vulnerable to demolition, prior to the completion of the historic survey of this area which is so important to St. Paul's heritage.

Thus, I ask you to please vote in favor of this interim demolition protection ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lori Brostrom  
710 Summit Avenue

**From:** Catherine Spaeth [<mailto:ccspaeth@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2018 9:53 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Ordinance to protect historic Merriam Park neighborhood

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I am writing to express my very strong support of the interim ordinance to stop demolitions and lot splits in Merriam Park while a historic resource survey can take place. Putting a moratorium in place is an essential element of the Merriam Park-area survey process. Important historic structures must not be torn at the same time they are being surveyed by HPC.  
. This would be absurd!

I attended Councilmember Henningson's meeting at the Merriam Park library on Wednesday 3/28. There were dozens of neighbors who came to express support for the moratorium. We talked about our investment in the neighborhood, the importance of valuing historic properties and homes, the value we place on a balance of homeowners and renters, and our acceptance of a livable amount of density (which many of us believe we already have).

I know there would have been much stronger support of the ordinance at that meeting if Councilmember Henningson had not told the neighbors the meeting was to give information and solicit questions. We then respected that restriction and people mostly asked questions.

If she had been clearer that she was not committed to voting for the ordinance and said she wanted to hear our opinions, we would have given them!! It struck me after that meeting that she, in effect, suppressed the attendees from expressing their views on the ordinance. And so has remained ignorant of how many residents of Merriam Park care about the historic value of our houses and DO NOT want them torn down without the time to properly research them.

My family has lived in our house in Merriam Park for over 25 years and we have raised our family here. We chose the neighborhood because of its historic character and because it's a family neighborhood where our children could play safely and walk to school, parks, and the library. St. Paul would be foolish to jeopardize those aspects that contribute to property values and a stable neighborhood.

We have invested many thousands of dollars into our house, bringing back its historic character and upgrading it to the 21st century. We want the house and the neighborhood to be attractive into the future. Many others in Merriam Park have done the same. And we have done so with the belief that the St. Paul city government values our investment and cares about protecting it.

If that is truly the case, I urge you all to vote in favor of the ordinance to stop demolitions and lot splits in Merriam Park for 9 months to allow the historic survey to take place.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Spaeth  
1879 Carroll Avenue

From: **Winston Kaehler** <[winkaehler@gmail.com](mailto:winkaehler@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 8:54 PM

Subject: Merriam Park moratorium

To: [ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

I strongly support the proposed nine-month moratorium on demolitions and lot splits for historic properties (identified in 1981 HPC survey) to permit a more comprehensive survey of historic resources to in turn enable designation of the area as a historic district. While that may entail some temporary inconvenience or deferred income for some, the longterm community benefit of a reasoned and deliberate effort to preserve the historic resources and community fabric of Merriam Park are more than worth those costs. Please consider what we want Merriam Park to be like for future generations for the whole of St. Paul, as well as more immediate needs or interests.

**From:** lauren anderson [<mailto:loanderson81@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 9:37 AM  
**To:** Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul) <[libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Proposed moratorium

Dear council members,

I have appreciated the time you have given to our neighborhood conversations regarding the proposed moratorium ordinance and efforts to study and protect St. Paul's historic resources. I appreciate that you acknowledge that the people who have invested into the original design of the neighborhood should help choose what it evolves into. Although we know that most changes are out of our control, what we can influence to make a better neighborhood, we should not be silent. I hope that you would vote for the moratorium to do what we can and give the city a fair evaluation.

Our neighborhood is all of the things one woman described at the meeting; rentals, apartments, student housing, sober houses and families. We have over 30 children in the area being surveyed, but I am sure it is even triple that since that is just who I know from my immediate, couple block radius. I love all the diversity because that is what makes it the city. Merriam park is a more affordable area for housing as it stands. My husband and I bought a very modest house in Highland as our first home but we were driven out by the high home prices. When we found our house in Merriam Park, the minute we walked in we could not believe we could afford such a castle. All of the old charm and character is the only reason we considered the house and area. One of the least redeeming qualities of Merriam Park is the apartment structure that was built directly across from our house, sadly replacing beautiful Victorians with a situation such as this, but we chose the view nonetheless because of our unique home. We also have found a wonderful community of families, which now is about every other home. It is a special neighborhood where there are lots of children the same age and us mothers have coffee together regularly. Everyone has bonded together to help raise the children like a village. I would argue we are a village. We are a very tight knit community.

I am also a St. Thomas alumni. I do not mind the college students in my neighborhood. I am fond of my experience at St. Thomas. The presence of the college is a wonderful addition to the neighborhood however it is not the main attraction. This neighborhood exists independent of the College and this is not a college town. I think it would be detrimental to allow beautiful homes to be torn down to accommodate a plethora of multi housing. This drastically alters the current dynamic of the neighborhood.

I think the general feeling most people have in the area is we do want to improve and embrace change but not at the expense of losing the positive qualities of what this neighborhood provides. This neighborhood provides a connection to our past while raising the people of our future. Not all old things are beautiful, or important, or special but shouldn't we just check? I am proud of Minnesota for recognizing the heritage. These homes are irreplaceable once gone and even hardly recreatable with the quality and craftsmanship. The old world charm is what brings people to Saint Paul and differentiates us from the newly developed suburbs. Please vote for the moratorium to review any value that could be lost forever without your vote! Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Lauren Marsh  
1931 Iglehart Avenue



**From:** Shaun McElhatton [<mailto:shaun.mcelhatton@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 9:52 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Re: 1905/1911 Iglehart Aves - Where is St. Paul's commitment to our historic neighborhood?

Dear City Council Members--as I stated in my earlier email below, I hope that the City Council will pass the interim ordinance to preserve historic properties in Merriam Park while the current historic designation study is under way. Over the past holiday weekend, my wife and I and several neighbors obtained over 100 signatures of Merriam Park residents, including many of the owners of the properties impacted by the proposed interim ordinance, on a petition in favor of passage of the interim ordinance. I will be presenting those signatures to the Council this evening.

On Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 1:40 PM, Shaun McElhatton <[shaun.mcelhatton@gmail.com](mailto:shaun.mcelhatton@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Council Members--

I am a lifelong St. Paul resident, and my wife and I have lived at 1879 Carroll Avenue for the last 28 years. I am sickened to hear that the City is considering approval of a permit to demolish the homes at 1905 and 1911 Iglehart Avenue. We, like many of our neighbors, have invested tens of thousands of dollars to improve and preserve our historic home in one of the oldest historic neighborhoods in the city. Approving demolition of the Iglehart homes will dilute the historic character of our neighborhood and the value of the investment that we have made in our home. I urge you, as City Council Members, to protect the historic resources that distinguish St. Paul from so many other cities by putting in place a moratorium on demolition of historic properties in Merriam Park until the current historic study has been completed.

Shaun McElhatton

**From:** B Mingo [<mailto:mingo.benjamin@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 10:39 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul) <[mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; McMahon, Melanie (CI-StPaul) <[Melanie.McMahon@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Melanie.McMahon@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul) <[libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; OBrien, Kim (CI-StPaul) <[kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Renstrom, Scott (CI-StPaul) <[scott.renstrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:scott.renstrom@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <[Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Vote Yes to the Moratorium

Council Members,

I encourage you to vote Yes today to the proposed moratorium. Help keep Saint Paul a truly wonderful and unique place to live!

Sincerely,  
Ben Mingo



**From:** John Brennan [<mailto:johnbrennan7@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 10:23 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Cc:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** In favor of the Merriam Park Interim Demolition Ordinance

Dear Council President Bendmoen and Members of the St. Paul City Council:  
I strongly support the proposed moratorium to study the historical houses in the neighborhood of Merriam Park. I live at 328 N Howell St.

Thank You  
John & Michele Brennan

**From:** Josh Capistrant [<mailto:josh@unionparkdc.org>]

**Sent:** Saturday, April 7, 2018 5:23 PM

**To:** Henningson, Samantha (CI-StPaul) <[samantha.henningson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:samantha.henningson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul) <[libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:libby.kantner@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Laura Capistrant <[laura@CrowsNestDesign.org](mailto:laura@CrowsNestDesign.org)>

**Subject:** Comments on the Merriam Park moratoriums.

Hello Samantha,

Hello Libby,

I'm attaching a letter I wrote about moratoriums in the neighborhood. Since they didn't make much sense in the context of my letter, I'm attaching some of my architectural research that I found good browsing on this issue.

[Historic Preservation: NIMBYism for the Rich? | City Observatory](#)  
[When Historic Preservation Clashes with Housing Affordability | Sightline Institute](#)  
[Giving Communities the Historic Preservation They Want – Next City](#)



20180407 Historic  
Moratorium.pdf

**From:** Charlotte Berres [<mailto:crberres@icloud.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, April 9, 2018 10:36 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Please support the moratorium to study historic homes in Merriam Park

Dear Council Member: Samantha Henningson – District 4

Council President Brendmoen and the other St. Paul City Council Members:

I live at 1919 Iglehart in the Merriam Park neighborhood of St. Paul which is one of the 41 homes to be studied. I support the moratorium. I plead with you for your support of the nine-month ordinance to study the historic homes in view of Merriam Park becoming a St. Paul Historic Heritage Neighborhood.

I hope you support the moratorium for three reasons:

- St. Paul is a city of many historic neighborhoods. It's this character that is our drawing point plus it fulfills one of our goals in the city's Comprehensive Plan.
- The hundreds of thousands of dollars that have been invested by responsible citizens in maintaining the historical character of this neighborhood needs to be supported and respected at the city level.
- Studying these homes will surface another 41 or more homes that need historic designation.

My observations to support this rationale:

As I searched for the 41 designated historic homes from 1981 the last two weeks, I have become more and more convinced of the importance of preserving this neighborhood. Each house has a beauty deep within and some have a beauty that shines through the restoration that the owners continually do. I marvel at those homes that are so well kept up; I found myself almost in tears looking at the historic homes which are now rentals (many student rentals) that are falling into severe disrepair. This is so sad; they too, have an inner beauty waiting to be captured. (We as a city really need to find ways to expect rental property owners to reinvest a portion of the rent back into the home.) Both the history of the neighborhood needs to be retained and then respect needs to be given to ALL who have invested so much money in the historical character of their own home.

As I continued on my walks around the neighborhood, I marveled at the number of homes not on the preservation list where the owners have again, invested tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars into restoration. They too are beautiful; these are my neighbors very much in favor of the moratorium as their house deserves to be studied and put on this list as well.

As I toured, I tried to understand these developers from the western suburbs who want to come in to St. Paul to demolish old homes to make us look like the suburbs. Yes, some homes look run down; yes,

property owners from outside of our neighborhood let the houses degrade to the point it looks like the house needs to be destroyed. If the developer could only open his eyes to history, the house could be renovated to its original beauty. I am tired of outsiders judging St. Paul through their lenses of the suburbs.

For example, 1912 and 1908 Roblyn, which are designated historic homes in the 1981 survey are student rental homes (with very LOUD parties) and lack of care by the homeowners: noted just on the outside – falling apart AC units, torn carpet, holes in the siding, unkempt yards, etc. As they fall into disrepair, soon a developer will come along and say that they need to be torn down. Again, this breaks my heart as I have known the previous owners of these homes the last 70 years and I have watched them painstakingly care for them. Now they are in ruins. Please as a City Council put a stop to this carelessness.

You can begin right now by supporting this moratorium, later supporting our neighborhood desire to become a St. Paul Historic Preservation District and eventually requiring reinvestment into homes. We love our 1880/90 homes. We invest not only money but time, energy and love into our homes. Please support St. Paul neighborhoods and bring back their original beauty. Please vote for the moratorium.

Thank you,

Charlotte Berres

1919 Iglehart Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

A 70 year resident as of July 2018!