

From: Grace Tangjerd Schmitt [<mailto:grace.tangjerdshmitt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 3:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Heintz, Polly (CI-StPaul) <polly.heintz@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Reduce the tax levy proposed for 2019

Dear Councilmember Prince:

I write to express my strong opposition to Mayor Carter's proposed 11.5 percent tax levy for 2019. As my City Council Representative, I am counting on you "to bring down the tax levy" as you committed to doing in the September 27, 2018 edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

I am particularly opposed to the proposed new "Office of Financial Empowerment." It is another example of the burgeoning bureaucracy under Mayor Carter's leadership.

There are multiple existing non-for-profit organizations and government programs (e.g., Project for Pride in Living, Twin Cities Rise, HIRED, MN Office of Economic Opportunity, etc.) that have already have effective services and infrastructure in place to address the issues Todd Hurley has identified. The City does not need to add staff to "tie these resources together". If improved collaboration is needed, then engage the Wilder Foundation in St. Paul to use their expertise and experience in community-driven collaboration. The wheel does not need to be re-invented by the City!

As for the vision of starting a "college savings account for every child in the city", I urge you and your colleagues to read the attached report "No Four Year Degree Required - In Demand Careers in MN", published by the Center of the American Experiment. One of the findings in the study is that "a two-year degree, apprenticeship or occupational certificate often lead to higher lifetime earnings than those of four-year degree holders—as much as 61 percent higher..." Watch the **one-minute** video "Great Jobs in Minnesota" at www.greatjobsmn.com. College is not for every child nor is it needed to achieve financial success.

I appreciate Council President Brendmoen's comments about the value of "an expanded tax base" in meeting the City's financial needs. It is all the more reason for Mayor Carter and the City Council to support businesses in the City and stop the government over-reach initiatives.

Thank you for your attention. I will watch for the efforts you make to reduce the levy.

Respectfully,

Grace Schmitt
1172 South Winthrop Street



In-demand Careers
in MN. No Four Yea

From: Gary Olson and Kate O'Connell [<mailto:ollgar@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2018 7:56 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Equitable Budget

Dear Mitra,

I fully supported Mayor Carter's proposed budget, even though it means my taxes will increase. I particularly liked the focus in that budget on funding for recreational centers rather than more police officers. While I want police officers to have sufficient resources and to continue to be trained to recognize and respond appropriately to their implicit biases, I do not think it would serve St. Paul well to have more police officers added at this time. Instead, that money should be used instead to engage youth in recreation centers, libraries and other such programs and resources.

I looked closely at the items listed on the website for the meeting on Wednesday, December 5. I wasn't able to find the specifics for the budget, which is concerning in itself. So I have two requests:

1. Would you please let me know where I can see the change items in the City Council's budget compared to the Mayor's budget?
2. If there is, in fact, funding for more police officers than the Mayor's proposed budget, I strongly ask you to oppose such a change.

Finally, thank you so much for your hard work on so many issues!

I appreciated being able to listen to you at the small-table breakout at Mitchell-Hamline in listening to the annual Police Citizen Internal Affairs Review Commission. I learned a great deal that evening and plan to continue to learn.

Kate O'Connell
1506 Simpson Street
St. Paul, MN 55108

From: Mary Kaye Carlson [<mailto:mkcarlson972@comcast.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 10:29 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Housing equity

Dear Rebecca Noeker,

I am a resident of Saint Paul and live in your ward. I have learned about the important topics regarding housing equity that will affect the City's budget and that are before the City Council at the meeting on Wednesday.

I am writing in support of those expenditures and to say that I think they should become a part of the City's budget for 2019. I believe those expenditures will support initiatives that will make St. Paul a better community for everyone.

I attend House of Hope Presbyterian Church in Saint Paul. The church supports mission efforts such as Project Home, Prior Crossing, Habitat for Humanity, and Ain Dai Yung Center. The proposed initiatives for funding align with the church's long term effort to assure that everyone has a home.

Sincerely,

Mary Kaye Carlson
972 Grand Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

Good afternoon Councilmembers,

I'm writing to you this afternoon about the 2019 city budget to ask you to invest our public tax dollars in community solutions to public safety, not additional police officers. We need to invest in strategies like restorative justice and community-based healing that harness community expertise, and cultivate relationships. Please reject any expansion in the police force or back-filling of officer positions, and redirect resources to root and restore our communities. I spend a lot of time working in and around public education in St. Paul and have some ideas about how city money could be better spent to support St. Paul families and their kids.

In October of 2017, the SPPS Board of Education voted to change school start times beginning in the 2019-20 school year, a decision that will result in nearly ten thousand elementary age students starting school at 7:30am and ending at 2:00pm. These young children and their families who live in our city will experience a major shift in their schedules and families who once relied on older siblings to care for younger children after school will no longer have this option as middle and high school students will be in school until 3:00pm. Fee-based childcare program costs will go up for families as they add another hour of childcare to their day and there is concern about finding enough recreation leaders and childcare workers, at both fee-based and free programs, to meet the city's youth programming needs. Additionally, young children will be waiting at bus stops as early as 6:30am in areas of our city that may or may not be well lit or in the views of their families, safe.

The money being considered to increase the number of police officers could be used for innovative, enriching, and meaningful engagement opportunities for youth who may be in after school care for up to four hours every school day. The money could support, facilitate, and lead community partnership work

that will increase the number of safe and engaging spaces available to youth. This money could ensure that as the \$15/hour minimum wage goes into effect for recreation leaders and childcare workers in the city, staffing at recreation centers isn't cut to balance the budget. The money could be used to add programming in other community spaces like libraries, beginning earlier in the day, in anticipation of greater numbers of young students looking for a place to go after school. The money could be used for pedestrian infrastructure updates (sidewalks, striping, lighting, signage) that improve safety in and around these school sites, making it easier and safer for students and families to get to and from school.

Nearly two-thirds of the twenty-two SPPS elementary schools changing to a 7:30am start are high-poverty schools; right now the financial and planning burden falls on these schools and their families. Schools will do all they can to support families through this change but they will so without additional funds - the city can and should be partners in the creation of more high-quality youth programming and development opportunities - it's an investment that lifts up whole communities and the city itself.

With one exception, I do not live in your ward and so you may be inclined to disregard this note; please don't. Please use this opportunity to be proactive in community building - say yes to real, tangible investment in communities, starting with some of our youngest learners and future leaders.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Kopp
23 year St. Paul resident (18 and counting in Ward 4)
SPPS parent

From: Jeremy Dowd <jeremydowd@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 3:44 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Mayor Carter's tax proposal

Good Afternoon Councilmember Thao,

We met several years ago to discuss vacant businesses in the southern part of your ward and I've appreciated your work to represent the people of Ward 1 since your election.

In reviewing my 2019 property tax estimate I recently received and calculating the large school district levy increase set to take effect next year I'd like to express my need for you to work with other council members to restrict the tax increases in next year's budget to a more reasonable level.

In today's Pioneer Press article *St. Paul City Council trying to trim mayor's 11.5 percent tax hike proposal* I did not see your name mentioned but hope you are of the same mind as Council President Brendmoen.

The consolidated garbage collection, school tax levy increase, mayor's projects, and regular assessments are too much for property owners to absorb within one year. I favor many of the initiatives Mayor Carter is pursuing but on the tail of these other increases he is testing the will of property owners to fund everything at once. Saint Paul has some excellent city services and there are some good cost-savings being done by using city assets properly and properly maintaining infrastructure that will pay off in the long run but I think there are other partnerships with local non-profits and advocacy groups that will be more willing to assist in developing affordable housing and poverty programs than taxpayers.

Best Regards, Jeremy Dowd

From: Ann Page <pagefontaine@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 10:45 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Police Officers Needed

Councilmember Thao:

We strongly support the hiring of 9 additional police officers as proposed in the St Paul budget. In our North End neighborhood where gun violence is rampant, the idea that community counseling will make the neighborhood safer is laughable. A unarmed counselor is going to approach an armed gang banger and change his way of life? How naive. We do support community outreach and youth programs that target those whose hearts and minds can be swayed, but we also need a robust police presence. Our police department is in need of 50 more beat police - at least nine is a start. We have lived off Rice Street for over 25 years and the gun crime has never been as bad as it has been this past year. The blocks between Rice & Park, Sylvan & Front, have become so scary that we no longer walk them. Please hear our plea for a police substation or office in the Winnipeg apartments vacant storefronts or somewhere on Rice. Surely the solution to safer neighborhoods is a combination of community outreach and a visible engaged & compassionate police force - not one approach vs another. Hoping to make our voices heard over the clamor of organized protesters,

Maury Fontaine & Ann Page
82 Manitoba Ave
St. Paul, MN 55117