May 16, 2019
Elizabeth Stiffler, PE
Department of Public Works
Traffic Engineering - Signing, Marking & Geometrics
800 City Hall Annex
25 West Fourth Street
St. Paul, MN 55102-1600

Dear Ms. Stiffler,

We are writing on behalf of the 46 members of Snelling-Selby Area Business Association and more than a hundred small businesses to register our concerns about **Permit Parking Proposed for (a) Expansion of Area 8, and (b) New Area 4.** Our concerns focus on several issues, noting that we find opportunities for all in NOT allowing permit parking in these areas.

First, street parking is public, not private, and homeowners in these two areas may object, but shouldn't have a right to the street space before any other individuals. These neighbors live in a very desirable area with many amenities (i.e., near the A–Line and many shops, stores, and restaurants) and rising home values. Parking is simply one of the hassles that comes with urban living, and we all must share in that reality.

Second, as has happened elsewhere, permit parking streets only push visitor parking to other streets, thus creating a new round of "permit-seekers" in other neighborhoods—and then still others—further congesting the already very congested Selby at Snelling Shopping District. Selby at Snelling is one of the hottest areas in Saint Paul. Its popularity has helped spark numerous and very beneficial recent housing and retail developments, which greatly impacts the City and its neighbors.

Third, use of public transportation and bike lanes is desirable for all communities, and we should be spending our energy promoting these assets.

Fourth, there are very few events at Allianz field and many of their patrons come from outside of our City. We should be sending a welcoming message to visitors and not the stay-away message that permit parking delivers.

Although we respect that some of our neighbors may experience change with concerns, the Business Association has been experiencing, navigating, and embracing change for more than 60 years. With this longer view—and the wisdom of experience—we are voicing opposition to permit parking in these two areas. We are recommending that efforts be spent promoting the many alternative forms of transportation and welcoming visitors to our wonderful City.

Thank you.

Joe Hughes, Owner, Union Park Management
Ed Conley, Owner, CCI Properties
Gayle Winegar, Owner, SweatShop Health Club