

**From:** Tom Cytron-Hysom <[thysom@gmail.com](mailto:thysom@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 12:58 PM  
**To:** Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul) <[pattie.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:pattie.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Property Tax

Pattie,

Thank you very much for getting back to me with this information - it is very helpful.

Could you please convey to Chris my hope that the final City budget adopted will adhere to the original lower limit? Given the higher range was adopted because of the uncertainty of how the garbage vote would end up, in case the city had to pay directly for collection, it would seem that the lower level originally adopted should now be adequate. Because the tax rate went up about 10% last year, and property values also rose significantly which further increased the totals assessed, it is creating significant stress on homeowners throughout St. Paul when taxes significantly exceed the inflation rate each year. On a personal level, as we approach retirement age and anticipate living on fixed incomes, it is disconcerting to consider that we might one day be forced to move out of St. Paul due to continually rising and unsustainable tax rates.

Thank you,  
Tom

**From:** Anthony Vavoulis [<mailto:tony@ksarealestate.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 3:38 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** The Mayor's Safety Plan

I might agree that something needs to be done and the Mayor's \$3 million initiative may be the best plan but I strongly disagree with adding the cost to the budget. Whatever plan is adopted to address the public safety issues must be paid for by offsetting cuts in other budgeted expenses. Suggesting an additional 5.85% increase in the levy is not sustainable. If this program is successful, it will not be a one time expenditure. If this plan is a top priority some other expenditures must be less so. The decision to cut other programs may be tough, but you must be...tough. The City is at or beyond a property tax tipping point. The unintended consequences of St Paul's high taxes could be dire for the long term health of the City.

Anthony Vavoulis  
822 Osceola Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55105

**From:** Sara Rottunda [<mailto:srottunda@earthlink.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 3:48 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Feedback on the Mayor's 2020 Budget & lack of police support

Dear Rebecca,

I want to share with you the following note that I sent to the Mayor this afternoon. The comments posted to the Star Tribune Article also summarize the general feeling in the city on his approach to gun violence - which is in conflict with what the Chief of Police wants and needs to be successful.

*Dear Mayor Carter,*

*One of the things you did well when you took office was listening to others people - gathering input from both those with government and private experience.*

*The gun violence problem requires expertise outside of the St. Paul City Council and your office. I was encouraged to hear that the FBI was being brought in, and further excited about the Chief of Police's proposals which I support.*

*I do not support the current budget where you are not giving the chief of police the resources he needs to be successful, redirecting those dollars to brick and mortar buildings and gun safety programs. We don't have time to wait.*

*I would also encourage you to connect with Mayor Frey in Minneapolis, as gun violence doesn't stop at the river.*

*I will be sharing this feedback with Rebecca as my council representative, as well as the chief of police's office.*

*thank you,*

My ask of you as our Council member is that you do not support the budget in it's current form, and that we direct funds, including increases if needed, to the Chief of Police. I am not in favor of any of the Mayor's current proposals.

Sara

Sara Rottunda  
1060 Grand Ave

**From:** George Schember [<mailto:george.schember@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 7:49 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Cc:** Diane Schember <[schember5@comcast.net](mailto:schember5@comcast.net)>  
**Subject:** Mayor Carter Proposal

Council Member Noecker,

I applaud Mayor Carter's effort to both listen to the community as well as address the unacceptable spike in violent crime within the city.

That said, his proposal lacks balance and is not sufficient for a great city such as St. Paul. I urge you to push for additional patrols and Shotspotter technology within the final budget.

It is time we listen also to the experts in Law enforcement as well as Mayor Carter's political base. Mayor Carter's proposal may be correct in a long time frame, but immediate steps to address the spike are necessary.

I look to you to represent this view for citizens of Ward 2.

Respectfully

George and Diane Schember  
924 Goodrich Ave  
St Paul MN 55105

**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2019 2:58 PM

**To:** Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul) <[pattie.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:pattie.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Debbie Engelen-Eigles <[enge006@gmail.com](mailto:enge006@gmail.com)>

**Cc:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Re: 1277 Bayard Property taxes link pleasee

Hello Pattie,

Thanks for the information.

I have a hard time reading the table below and would need help to understand it.

That said, I like to give my concerns through this email to council member Tolbert and the City Counsel for the December 4th hearing and I like my comments to be entered please:

Our taxes and levies keep increasing with double digits for a couple of years now. We also have a major street repair slated for this Spring of 2020 which will cost a lot of extra money. Our property has been in the same condition for years but the value given by the City to our property seems out of proportion. Furthermore, as an example of more taxes and levies, Mayor Carter wants another levy to "tackle" the current crime/murder uptick. His reasoning is wrong as is Council member Tolbert's support for this levy, because you can't dissolve the Mounted and K-9 units (and supposedly save money) and expect good policing work, to then turn back to the citizenry to ask for another levy to fight crime. This the frustrating part of living in the City of St. Paul: the Council and the Mayor implement policies on their own with no input for the citizens, when the policy changes fail, they don't take responsibility but present the bill to the citizens.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Gerard Engelen

**From:** Steve Simmer <[stsimmer@hotmail.com](mailto:stsimmer@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 1, 2019 2:05 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <[Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Property Taxes

Dear Councilmember Tolbert:

Just a note of concern prior to property tax meeting on Wednesday. I am unable to make it to this meeting. I realize you have been reasonably conservative when it comes to taxation, so I am sure you know this. but the proposed tax increase from the City is unacceptable.

At the proposed level, the City's share of my property taxes is due to increase by \$500 plus! Some is due to valuation, but not much.

I understand that this level was a "just in case" measure in anticipation of the trash hauling vote. Now that it has passed, I expect that to be rolled back.

One other concern:

I understand the Mayor's desire to work on the roots of the city's youth violence and firearms issues, but costly studies with no measurable outcomes won't likely help. The frightening and immediate reality is that a broken culture is creating violent sociopaths faster than they can be removed from the streets. Accountability and a firm expectation of behavior has to come first. Let's not lose sight of that.

Thank you for your attention. I don't envy your job, but I appreciate your honest efforts at keeping St. Paul a city I want to live in.

Steve Simmer  
1265 Jefferson Ave.  
55105

**From:** Terry Cummings [<mailto:tkconhogan@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 12:40 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Budget

Rebecca,

Congratulations on your re-election. I live in Ward 2 and voted for you.

St. Paul faces a number of critical issues which need immediate attention such as gun violence, affordable housing, education, safe streets to name a few. The Mayor's budget is up for approval very soon.

When faced with critical issues, they need to be top priority and items that fall into the category of "this would be nice but not critical" need to be shelved for a later time. These decisions need to be made, rather than just added on top of the critical issues.

I've seen where the Mayor wants to add on to his original budget for a critical issue?

I put the AYD MILL ROAD bike and pedestrian path as just such an item to be shelved. We have way to many issues that are way more important.

I am totally against it on it's merits alone, but especially with so many other needs to spend money on this would be outrageous.

Thanks for hearing my concerns.

Terry Cummings