



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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May 28, 2020

City of Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Boulevard, West, 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: SAFE Housing Tenant Protections

Dear City Councilmembers:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Payne-Phalen Community Council. The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 through an online meeting platform. The published agenda included an item on City of St. Paul S.A.F.E. Housing Tenant Protections Ordinance. The Board packet included information from the City of St. Paul about the proposed ordinance as well as the final report of the East Side Housing Justice initiative.

After full discussion of the matter, the Board voted to support the City of St. Paul's S.A.F.E. Housing Tenant Protections Ordinance.

As you may know, throughout 2019 and early 2020, ABC Realty and other East Side partners launched a series of meetings, events, screenings, panel discussions and community conversations focused on closing the racial housing gap between white Minnesotans and Minnesotans of Color. The intention was to build awareness around the issue and identify people and institutions working in this space. City elected officials, City staff, and representatives from allied organizations across the Twin Cities were among those who spoke at, participated in, and collaborated on many of these events. The Payne-Phalen Community Council was – and is – one of those allied organizations.

Over time, this work became collectively known as East Side Housing Justice (ESHJ) and the series culminated in the first East Side Housing Summit in November 2019. Overall, nearly 600 people attended the event series and Summit and shared their *own* stories, aspirations, concerns and hopes around housing issues – particularly on St. Paul's East Side. Throughout the ESHJ series, Payne-Phalen board members, staff, and members of our many diverse communities were involved in this work particularly with an eye toward crafting policies to address the housing challenges for both current and future populations

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in Payne-Phalen and more broadly, on St. Paul's East Side. Follow-up to the series and the Summit was well underway in early 2020 when the worldwide pandemic hit.

Of particular note, tenant issues, rising rents, and substandard housing were among the key issues identified for further work. With that in mind, the Payne-Phalen Community Council supports the City in its efforts to address the need for stable, accessible, fair, and equitable housing -- particularly the SAFE Housing Tenant Protections that are proposed.

We appreciate this letter being included in the packet of materials for the upcoming Council meetings and public hearing. And we thank you in advance for taking the position of the Payne-Phalen Community Council into full consideration in this important matter.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,



Jack Byers
Executive Director

cc. The Honorable Melvin Carter, Mayor
Council President Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5
Council Member Nelsie Yang, Ward 6
Council Member Jane Prince, Ward 7
Tony Newborn, Chief Equity Officer
Noel Nix, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Community Engagement
Hwa Jeong Kim, Legislative Aide
Dia Vang, Legislative Aide
Stephanie Harr, Legislative Aide
Athena Hollins, PPCC Board President
Board of Directors, Payne-Phalen Community Council