

**From:** Michael J McGibbon <[mickmcgibbon@me.com](mailto:mickmcgibbon@me.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, August 9, 2020 12:41 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** RES 20-1049 financing charter schools

Council Member Thao,

Once again the St Paul City Council is being asked to approve conduit bond financing for a St Paul charter school, this time for the Hmong College Preparatory Academy. When will the city council decide that enough is enough with financing charter schools which are in competition with the St Paul Public School system?

I say it should be now! Please do not approve RES 20-1049.

I am including the wording of an email I sent to the sponsor of the resolution, Council Member Mitra Nelson. It will better explain some of my opposition to the resolution. I hope you take the time to read it.

Thank you.

Mick McGibbon

78 E 10th Street #2207

St Paul, Minnesota 55101

[mickmcgibbon@me.com](mailto:mickmcgibbon@me.com)

651-226-8896

Mitra,

As the sponsor of RES 20-1049, a resolution to the St Paul City Council to approve a \$7 million conduit revenue financing bond for Hmong College Preparatory Academy (HCPA), I hope that you would reconsider your sponsorship and support of this resolution. With the current questions and concerns about supporting our public school system through these trying times due to the Coronavirus pandemic, why on Earth should the St Paul City Council be considering the passage of a resolution to give an initial \$7 million to HCPA this week, with a possible additional \$30 million in September? In normal times this conduit revenue bond financing of St Paul charter schools is misguided and a detriment to the St Paul Public School system. With the current state of affairs due to this pandemic, it's unforgivable.

Like all city council members, I am sure you like to promote yourself as being whole-heartedly in support of the St Paul Public School system. I saw you standing on a podium at Rice Park last March voicing your loud support for the teachers and members of the St Paul Federation of Educators during their strike last spring. And I know you like to tout your time as a teacher, as well you should.

Unfortunately, your sponsorship and support for this resolution runs counter to your words. And it's a slap-in-the-face to the members of SPFE. But considering that your time teaching was as a Teach For America recruit, maybe your loyalties are more to an organization that favors charter school education reform, than to the members of a local school union. I'm sure you would argue that. But that's how I view your representation of yourself. And I don't think I'm alone in that opinion.

Therefore, if you really feel an affiliation with the St Paul Federation of Educators, and if you honestly want to support the St Paul Public School system, you should seriously consider withdrawing your sponsorship and support for RES 20-1049.

Sincerely,

Mick McGibbon

78 E 10th Street #2207

St Paul, Minnesota 55101