

From: Kelly Chapman <chapmankellyann@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 9:51 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: MN Acre Farms Support

Dear Council Members,

Code restrictions should be relaxed to allow MN Acre Farms to maintain their unit in Saint Paul. We need to support this type of urban agriculture to promote sustainability. Perhaps other additions to the lot could be made to make the facility more welcoming to the public.

Kelly Chapman

From: Bernadine Lortis <ideagardener1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 10:29 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Hydroponic Farming

Dear Council Members,

Please reconsider keeping the important hydroponic farming effort that has begun. It's a wonderful and necessary asset to our community and will become even more so in the future. Thankfully St. Paul will have been proactive with their headstart.

Thank you for listening.
BernadineLortis
1723 Eleanor Ave, St Paul, MN 55116

From: Sara Stalland McGarraugh <sstalland@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 10:52 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support for MN Acre Farms

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Saint Paul, living in 55105 zip code. It was brought to my attention that MN Acre Farm, a hydroponic farming solution for our urban area is encountering difficulties with zoning due to it's external structure. I would like to advocate for it to continue to operate as-is. I believe the benefits to our community outweigh the "look." This is the kind of thing that we need to be promoting more as we create a more sustainable community. Putting up barriers to small businesses that are bringing healthy food to the area because it doesn't "look good" per the current zone regulations seems like a good reason to revisit this policy and assess the net gain that it will clearly bring.

Best,
Sara McGarraugh

196 S Oxford Street

From: Maria Pugliese <mn.pugs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 11:07 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: MN Acre Farms

Good morning,

I am writing to express my support of MN Acre Farms, the new hydroponic farm in St Paul. Having such a business in the city would be game changing for so many people.

I understand that some of the concern is the appearance of the farm. However, I strongly believe that the good it will bring to our community far outweighs any appearance concerns.

Accessing local, fresh produce in a MN city in the winter is near impossible. These individuals have found a way to make that happen, and I am 100% in support of them getting up and running as soon as possible. Giving residents the opportunity to access locally grown, fresh produce year round is something that the city could and should be very proud of.

Thank you!
Maria Bradley

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jean Davis <jean1davis1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 12:46 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: jean1davis1@gmail.com
Subject: Minnesota Acre Farms LLC

Dear Council,

I live on Osceola Avenue between Hamline and Snelling Avenues. I am writing in support of Minnesota Acre Farms LLC which is a hydroponic food growing business which has been cited with a violation. We need to support this "green" business and find ways for it to operate in Saint Paul. A location on Snelling that has so many other businesses on it seems to be an ideal location for it in the community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean Davis
1363 Osceola Avenue
Sent from my iPhone

From: Lara Dreier <lara.dreier@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 3:55 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: MN Acre Farms

Dear Council,

I would like to advocate for MN Acre Farms to be able to use a storage container to grow sustainable food for St. Paul residents. Urban agriculture is one of the best ways we have to ensure that the needs of our community are met, and I hope that you will not let restrictions on the external-facing component of this venture impede real progress within our city. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Lara

Lara Dreier
2183 Hendon Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
(612) 223-1978

From: Casey A. <caseyandersen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 10:43 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: In Support of MN Acre Farms

Good morning St. Paul City Council-

I'm reaching out in support of MN Acre Farms and their request to maintain their location and operations.

I can't claim expertise, but what I do see is a group of people open to new ideas, being innovative, being willing to take risk, investing their own time, making a financial investment, etc. - all things that seem to have more pros than cons. Physically, even though I pass along Snelling nearly every day, I have yet to notice the box. If the neighbors who see it directly have given the OK then what's the trouble? It's not dilapidated or dangerous, but instead it's clean and safe.

2020 has had enough division and bad news. Let's embrace a breath of fresh air and encourage the positive part of life and our community.

Please consider looking past the rules and what-ifs and defer to common decision making.

Casey Andersen

From: David Meyer <davidmeyer.home@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 10:49 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Hydroponic Container on Snelling

Council Members,

I'm writing a note with respect to Minnesota Acre Farms - the Hydroponic Farming currently located at 408 Snelling. My wife and I live in Highland Park, just south of this operation and also own a business located in Saint Paul. We are long term residents and committed to Saint Paul. We drive by this location every day and to be honest, we never even noticed the container in the parking lot of Wells Piano and simply don't see an issue with this use of a parking lot space for Hydroponic Farming in a container (a well kept one, good looking one from what we've seen).

We are in favor of this project and would ask to the council to consider this as a positive for Saint Paul. I have to believe there is a path for Minnesota Acres to be able to make this work in partnership with the city and residents. We'd like to see business survive and thrive in Saint Paul... and this appears to be a creative way to leverage existing space that does not detract from the area.

Sincerely,

David Meyer
M: 651.341.6054
davidmeyer.home@gmail.com

From: Kate H. Westlund <kate.westlund@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:00 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: In Support of Urban Farming

Hello Councilmember Jalali and other Councilmembers,

I wanted to write in given the limitations of City Council meetings and testimonials due to COVID-19.

It was brought to my attention that a storage container farm was recently in violation of St. Paul city code due to the facade and not the function.

I'm admittedly not well versed in city code (or the council's exact position on this matter, or the company in question, to be frank) but here's my quick take:

I believe that easy access to fresh food is paramount for a healthy community. I hope that any innovation to bring local produce to a city would at least be considered, and perhaps even incentivized down the line.

Thanks for your consideration,

Kate Westlund
Ward 4 Homeowner