

**From:** [Ron Rybicka](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to 2020 Street Maintenance Services - Seal Coating Street/Alley  
**Date:** Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:32:41 PM

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Good morning members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing this morning to object and appeal the 2020 Street Maintenance - Sealcoating Street and Alley assessment to my property at 952 Laurel Avenue, Saint Paul, Mn 55104.

The proposed assessment to my property is for \$474.40, which I was not able to pay when originally mailed to me, and still can not at this time, seems like very poor timing. At a time when Saint Paul residents have been for over a year dealing with lockdowns, and loss of income due to the Covid pandemic it seems unwise, and I hate to use the word unfair, for residents to be forced to pay yet another assessment for their already highly taxed property. If I calculate my half of the block alone the city has assessed fees of over \$6,600 to seal half the alley and half of the street. How is it possible to cost that much to lay down sealer and sand? I have lived 52 years, from birth, til now as a resident of this city. I have owned a home and have paid property taxes since 1994. The proportion of taxes to income I pay now has greatly increased since 1994 and the services that I receive have decreased. I currently pay just shy \$500.00 a month in property taxes as well as several other assessments yearly. As I get older and my income has effectively become less due to higher taxes and price inflation of goods and services I am slowly getting squeezed out of the city I once was proud to call my home town. Now in my fifties, me and my spouse have weekly, if not daily conversations regarding what city, state we can move to live a better life.

Therefore I implore the members of city council to use the taxes that the taxpayers of this city have already paid for such services, instead of further burdening homeowners who already struggle to pay their sales, income, gas, property and countless other taxes just to exist in this city. Not to be snarky, but I feel it needs to be said as many, many of us Saint Paulites think it!!!! Perhaps the Mayor could do with one less staff member (it appears it has ballooned to 16) in his overfilled office in city hall and/or maybe think twice before wasting tens of thousands of taxpayer funds hiring PR firms to bolster his reelection bid, then perhaps, the city could afford to take care of city expenditures without further taxing its citizens out of the homes they have worked their entire lives to afford!

Sincerely,  
Ronald R. Rybicka  
Prop Id # 02-28-23-24-0107