

From: Marilyn Bach <marilynbach123@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 12:01 PM
To: Jenna Sadjadi <Jenna.Sadjadi@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: letter for Mon. Feb 10 virtual meeting on Ord 25-4 tree preservation

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Jenna ,
I would appreciate our assistance. Could you kindly distribute this letter to :
Director Kershaw, Director Rodriguez, Forestry Manager Jongeward and Councilmember Noecker.
prior to Monday's Feb 10 virtual meeting on ORD-25-4.
This letter has been accepted for publication by the Pioneer Press.
Thank you for your assistance .

Marilyn Bach

February 4, 2025

Letter to Editor Pioneer Press

On Feb. 12, 2025, Rebecca Noecker will become Saint Paul City Council President.
Incoming Council President Noecker stated: "I see it as my role to make sure that our city is resilient and ready for whatever it takes to protect our people and our communities." *KSTP.com January 28, 2025* .

Council President Noecker now has a unique opportunity to build a broad citizen's coalition to protect Saint Paul's urban forest...a lynchpin of Saint Paul's environmental protection. Perhaps she can follow guidance from on our city report:

"The trees that comprise the urban forest of Saint Paul provide a variety of benefits. Trees are our largest source of green infrastructure and enhance the landscape by providing shade---. *Saint Paul Urban Tree Assessment October 28, 2024*.

On Jan 22, 2025 R. Noecker introduced Ord 25-4 –a tree preservation ordinance.
Public groups commended this initiative –but believe the ordinance as presently written does not have adequate "teeth" for enforcement and conflicts with the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act MERA116BMN .

Several problems exist:

1. Planting new saplings to replace 100 – year- old established stately trees is NOT preservation.
2. Ord 25-4 does not require a MERA review to find if any prudent alternatives exist.
3. Ord 25-4 opens the door to prioritize projects over tree preservation by simply declaring that preservation 'is not feasible.'
4. A neutral / independent, certified arborist, rather than a city Public Works representative should determine the effectiveness of tree preservation plans.

Simple amendments to Ord 25-4 such as adding " subject to (MERA) MN Stat.116B", and requiring project approval by an American Society of Urban Arborists Board member will go a long way in to

establishing Sant Paul as a leader in Tree Preservation and Ms. Noecker as an effective Council President.

Marilyn Bach, PhD

Member Save Or Street (SOS)

a citizens group formed to protect St. Paul's treasured Summit Avenue

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