



August 7, 2024

To: Department of Safety and Inspections
City of St. Paul
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806

From: Union Park District Council

Re: Hotworx franchise at 431 Snelling Avenue (The Pitch) –
variance to allow unattended periods for the saunas

Union Park District Council 13 position: If the St. Paul City Attorney does not object to the requested variance to allow unattended periods for the saunas, Union Park District Council 13 SUPPORTS the requested variance

The Union Park District Council 13 Committee on Land Use and Economic Development (CLUED) met on July 15, 2024 and the Board met on August 7, 2024.

Natalia Davis and her husband (a St. Paul Firefighter) have used the Woodbury Hotworx franchise, and would like to open a franchise in their neighborhood. This location would house 9 saunas, which hold up to 3 persons in each. The saunas combine heat, infrared energy, and virtually instructed exercise. The facility will be accessible 24 hours per day 7 days per week, with staff present Monday through Friday 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Video monitoring and emergency notification necklaces will be available for unstaffed hours.

Ms. Davis addressed the Committee's concerns regarding additional traffic (probably will not be noticeable), parking (covered parking), and noise (very little noise outside of the building).

Though this is similar to the business model for other exercise facilities, such as Snap Fitness, St. Paul requires staff to be present at all times that a sauna is available.

Natalia noted that Hotworx has over 600 locations throughout the United States, including locations in Woodbury, Eagan, St. Louis Park, Maple Grove, and Minneapolis. All locations have the same 24 hour access and the same staffed hours. To date, there have been no medical problems.

- Because there will be video monitoring and emergency notification necklaces, and
- because Hotworx has established a safe track record at other franchises including Woodbury, Eagan, and Minneapolis; and
- if the St. Paul City Attorney does not object to the requested variance to allow unattended periods for the saunas,
- Union Park District Council 13 SUPPORTS the requested variance.

Signed,

Sarah Dvorak Board President