

From: [UHF Administrator](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Written comment from United Hmong Family
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 8:08:57 PM
Attachments: [Written Comment - UHF .pdf](#)

You don't often get email from info@theunitedhmongfamily.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Saint Paul City Council members,

We, the United Hmong Family will not be able to attend the hearing. However, we want to add our written comment on the proposed resolution. The written comment is attached below.

Thank you,



Administrator

United Hmong Family, Inc

Email: info@theunitedhmongfamily.org

Web: <https://theunitedhmongfamily.org/>

Ph: 651-348-8273

2990 Rice St, St Paul, MN 55113



THE UNITED HMONG FAMILY

40 Arlington Ave E. # 17278, St. Paul, MN 55117

Phone: 651-348-8273 | info@theunitedhmongfamily.org

Dear Saint Paul City Council Members,

The United Hmong Family (UHF) has proudly hosted the Minnesota Hmong New Year (MNHNY) and the Hmong International Freedom Festival (HIFF) since 2017. These two events have existed in Minnesota for over 40 years and have become a part of Minnesota's fabric as they have both not only supported sharing the Hmong language, arts, and culture, but the economic vibrancy of this city with the hundreds of vendors that come from local cities and across the U.S. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support and service provided by the Saint Paul Police Department, whose partnership has helped ensure the safety and success of our events each year. Over time, we have built a strong and respectful working relationship, and we sincerely value that collaboration.

As we continue to organize these important cultural celebrations, UHF remains committed to maintaining positive partnerships with the City of Saint Paul and the various departments we work alongside. We have worked diligently to secure adequate funding to sustain these events. Despite steadily rising costs, we have made every effort to ensure that all public safety payments are made promptly each year through fundraising efforts we provide on our own.

However, the increasing financial burden has made it progressively more difficult to sustain our events. From 2022 to 2025, police costs alone have increased anywhere from \$80,000 to \$120,000 per event. In addition, both venues where our events are held require multiple layers of private security beyond the required Saint Paul Police presence, adding approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 in additional operational expenses. Altogether, our total public safety costs now exceed \$150,000 per event, each of which spans multiple days. To meet these obligations, we have had to reduce our own internal staffing capacity to prioritize required contracts and ensure compliance.

In writing to the Council, we respectfully ask that you reconsider the resolution to allocate funding solely toward outstanding balances for select events. We urge consideration of a more equitable distribution of funds among all major community events hosted in Saint Paul. Our continued efforts to remain in Saint Paul and host both the Minnesota Hmong New Year and the Hmong International Freedom Festival (also internationally known as Hmong J4th) reflect our deep commitment to contributing to the city's cultural vibrancy and economic activity. Your



THE UNITED HMONG FAMILY

40 Arlington Ave E. # 17278, St. Paul, MN 55117

Phone: 651-348-8273 | info@theunitedhmongfamily.org

support will strengthen not only the event, but the value of this community and its contributions to St. Paul.

Please refer to the data below outlining our public safety costs over the years for your review and consideration.

Event	2022 Costs for Venue rental	2022 Costs for Police	2023 Costs for Venue Rental	2023 Costs for Police	2024 Costs for Venue Rental	2024 Costs for Police	2025 Costs for Venue Rental	2025 Costs for Police
MN Hmong New Year	\$136,000	\$58,724.00	\$107,671.26	\$69,000.00	\$121,880.43	\$79,500	\$138,314.12	\$81,333.00
HIFF	\$65,000	\$58,814.64	\$65,000	\$66,771.43	\$65,000	\$99,702.70	\$65,000	\$111,813.1



THE UNITED HMONG FAMILY

40 Arlington Ave E. # 17278, St. Paul, MN 55117

Phone: 651-348-8273 | info@theunitedhmongfamily.org

Event: MNHNY	Spectator Attendance	Vendor Attendance	Days including load in day for vendors that require Public Safety
2022	25,864	67	3
2023	23,510	109	3
2024	31,188	112	3
2025	27,190	139	3

Event: HIFF	Spectator Attendance	Vendor Attendance	Days including load in day for vendors that require Public Safety
2022	37,868	103	3
2023	35,350	209	3
2024	57,487	215	3
2025	48,774	205	3