

Public Comment

Row 17

Date Created	06/17/26 2:07 PM
Saved	☐
Name	Ash Tifa
Issue/File	2026-00264
Comment	Hello Council, My name is Ash Tifa, I am a City of Minneapolis - Ward 12 resident and I come today representing Outfront MN, the state's largest 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy organization. I support the councils direction to explore how to take on the institutionalized homophobia present at the city. During the AIDS crisis that ravaged our communities, governmental institutions chose to either ignore us or were openly antagonistic toward the queer community. Public health agencies that should have mobilized in our defense instead stood by, and treated our deaths as collateral damage. Law enforcement did not see the spaces where our community was doing its own lifesaving work as anything but targets to be raided. The scars of the entrenched homophobia and transphobia that government officials implemented during that era are still on the books today, embedded in zoning codes, licensing restrictions, and policies that were never written with public health in mind, but with the explicit intent to erase us from public life. This is why this ordinance is of critical importance. Yes, bringing back bathhouses to this city will be good for our community, and I fully support this initiative. These spaces matter, historically and presently, and reversing the restrictions that targeted them is long overdue. AND, the real significance of this ordinance is the step it represents for the city of Minneapolis to be introspective about how this city continues to treat the queer community. Last week many of us were here for the Pride resolution, and Councilmember Chavez spoke about doing more than just paying lipservice. This is a real action the council can take to make this city safer for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. This is a wonderful opportunity for this council to bring the city better into line with our values and to do so in the actual text of our municipal code. I urge the committee to support this ordinance.
Ward	Ward 12
Meeting Type	City Council
Council Committee	Public Health, Safety & Equity (PHSE)
Independent Body	
Board/Commission	

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Modified	06/17/26 2:07 PM
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Public Comment

Row 15

Date Created	06/17/26 10:11 PM
Saved	☐
Name	
Issue/File	
Comment	I am writing to urge you to lift the ban on bathhouses in Minneapolis. Sexual health is stigmatized when sex—a perfectly normal, human desire—is pushed into secrecy, and sexual assaults during casual encounters are more likely to occur in private locations than in public venues where others can intervene. If you vote to keep these archaic bans in place, you are voting with fear, shame, and bigotry, not with history and science.
Ward	I do not reside in Minneapolis
Meeting Type	City Council
Council Committee	I don't know, share with all City Council
Independent Body	
Board/Commission	
Created By	web-form@smartsheet.com
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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 9:37:14 AM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/17/26, 9:34 AM

2026-00264

I am in support of repealing the bath house ban, a homophobic piece of legislation. The result of an appeal would be better public health for all.

Ward: Ward 2

Public Health, Safety & Equity (PHSE)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment:
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 9:40:58 AM



Public Comment:

Date: 06/17/26, 9:38 AM

2026-00176

I am in support of the the city protecting and welcoming people of all genders and orientations. Please pass this ordinance. Why would you be opposed to protecting everyone? I fear the answer would be that you are discriminatory to people who are different from you.

This is a really important time to protect queer people, trans people, and women -- all of whom are being targeted by discriminatory legislation across the country.

Ward: Ward 2

Public Health, Safety & Equity (PHSE)

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: (2 entries)
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 1:36:07 PM



Public Comment: (2 entries)

Public Comment:

Date: 06/16/26, 1:35 PM

(2026-00264) - Bathhouses

I am so happy to hear that as a city council you have solved all of the city's problems and can now spend time discussing non existent problems that no one asked for or care about

This is absurd

We have open air drug markets being allowed by the MPD that are ruining peoples lives, businesses, and our communities in South Mpls. The council has heard testimony recently about the millions of dollars of our money being pilfered by the MPD to not respond to calls and just milk overtime, in some cases as an admitted COMMON practice of elevating their pension payments so the grift continues after they retire. The number of public safety issues you could be addressing are almost endless

And we're talking about bathhouses? Bathhouses.

How is this a problem? Are folks currently operating these and being cracked down on by MPD? Sure doesn't sound like it. Is someone trying to open one of these and the council is simply bending to their will? No one will say. Who cares about this? How is this a priority?

And then we have my council member, Jason Chavez, claiming this is about the LGBTQIA+ community. Really? Like for real? Are these bathhouses only for those folks? Will other people not be allowed in? I find it rather belittling and offensive to tell folks that they need a special place and rules for enjoying each others company because that implies they can't or shouldn't live, interact, and be with each other like everyone else

I am well aware of history, and how these were a needed lifeline for many folks who had to hide who they were through the 50s, 60s, and 70s. But that was 50+ years ago. Please find relevant problems and issues to spend your time and our money on

Ward: Ward 9

Public Health, Safety & Equity (PHSE)

-

Public Comment: EQW

Date: 06/16/26, 1:33 PM

2026-00264

I respectfully oppose the proposed ordinance allowing this bathhouse and adult sex venue in Minneapolis.

My concern is not about consenting adults, but about whether this proposal represents a responsible use of the City's time, attention, and regulatory resources. Minneapolis continues to face significant challenges involving downtown revitalization, public safety, homelessness, infrastructure, and economic development. These issues should take precedence over creating a new licensing and regulatory framework for commercial sex-oriented venues. I am also concerned that such establishments could create opportunities for exploitation, illegal activity, and enforcement challenges despite regulatory safeguards. Supporters argue that bathhouses will promote safer sexual behavior, but participation would be limited to those who can afford to pay for access. As a result, the underlying behaviors cited as justification for the proposal would still occur outside these venues, limiting much of the claimed public-health benefit.

For these reasons, I believe the City Council should focus its efforts on more urgent civic priorities and reject the proposed bathhouse ordinance.

Ward: Ward 3

Business, Housing & Zoning (BHZ)

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From: trossi1113@aol.com
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bath Houses...Next Door Post. Comments below. The post will likely come down. Too many DSA ers will report comments...that they do not like.
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 12:11:35 PM

I'm concerned that allowing adult bathhouses and sex venues in Minneapolis could normalize environments that increase risks for exploitation, public health issues, and neighborhood disruption. — Nextdoor

Check out this post on Nextdoor: [https://nextdoor.com/p/s3dFfs78BpyR?](https://nextdoor.com/p/s3dFfs78BpyR?utm_source=share&extras=NzY4MzMzMjNDMD%3D&utm_campaign=1775580951103&share_action_id=c3987d1b-12da-4345-91dd-7a54c0ab901a)
utm_source=share&extras=NzY4MzMzMjNDMD%3D&utm_campaign=1775580951103&share_action_id=c3987d1b-12da-4345-91dd-7a54c0ab901a

Kat D.
Lynnhurst.
1h

I'm concerned that allowing adult bathhouses and sex venues in Minneapolis could normalize environments that increase risks for exploitation, public health issues, and neighborhood disruption. I'd like to see more data on safety, policing impact, and community feedback before moving forward. What do others in Minneapolis think—do you see this as a positive step for personal freedom, or a potential risk to our neighborhoods and vulnerable populations? https://kstp.com/politics/minneapolis-council-set-to-consider-ordinances-that-allow-adult-bathhouses-sex-venues/?fbclid=IwY2xjawRCAUFeHRRuA2FibQlxMABicmlkETFEUndLeU50b013emtiaWl3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHg-pPJsnnw1H16q1UI4A_H4Oa7AvFL0FV0oTMBVYWFJY0XFzWfuzImrQe0MI_aem_ITNJkRCnOfUnlIghjvGxVg



[Minneapolis council set to consider ordinances that allow adult bathhouses, sex venues](https://www.kstp.com/story/news/local/minneapolis/2023/05/16/minneapolis-council-set-to-consider-ordinances-that-allow-adult-bathhouses-sex-venues/7048192002/)
[kstp.com](https://www.kstp.com)

10



Tim C.
1h · Minnehaha

I think it would provide a regulated environment for what's already happening and could make it safer for all involved. That being said, I find an aversion to the entire concept.

Reply

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4

John Richard
58m · Phillips

Rents are rising at out of control rates, threatening many with eviction. Nicolet Mall remains a string of empty shops. Neighbors all over the city are afraid to leave cars parked on streets overnight. There is still no cohesive plan to how to safely shelter out homeless neighbors struggling with addiction and mental illness, while keeping housed and unhoused neighbors safe from the crime

street dealers attract. And the progressives on the city council are prioritizing the right of people to engage in quick sex with strangers in a safer environment. This makes sense for what reason???

Reply

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[Dave Smith](#)

15m · [Golden Valley-Northwest](#)

[John](#)

if its regulated and taxed perhaps it could pay for all the things?

Reply

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[Terry Rossi](#)

33m · [Howe](#)

My concern is simply this...OUR city has some significant challenges, and RIGHT NOW. This specific group on the council, the DSA aligned/Wonsley voting block, AKA, The Chugleys, are only interested in certain things, (that appeal to them) and much, almost all of it, has absolutely nothing to do with helping the city through its PRESENT challenges.

Our City staff, (through our clerk, I believe) made a statement, which I will try to locate, indicating that they are being buried, inundated, with all these requests to work on this, or that, from THIS faction on the council. There is only so much city staff time, that WE PAY for, so how much time is actually LEFT for running the city....which means providing CORE services, in a fiscally responsible way.

This group, the DSA faction on the council, does not seem to be a bit interested in, or concerned about, as OUR paid employees, in the functions required for city governance, as listed in their job description.

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[Ted Lampe](#)

32m · [Todd Park](#)

Priorities seem out of place with this

Reply

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[Evan Jones](#)

30m · [Ericsson](#)

Why not? All other major cities have them.. is Minnesota too good for that? Now we gotta police the bedrooms?

Reply

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[Terry Rossi](#)

27m · [Howe](#)

[Evan](#)

Really, " ALL major cities" ? Quite sure people are NOT talking about bedrooms in homes. Come on now.

Reply

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[T.J.S.](#)

28m · Edited · [Sorenson](#)

Sex work is the oldest profession, keeping it in the dark only enables what you're worried about the most. In the postmortem of backpage's getting shut down made the work more dangerous. It didn't stop anything, mostly removed the tools the workers said helped keep themselves safe.

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[Terry Rossi](#)

17m · [Howe](#)

This faction on the council is going to reference San Francisco, a lot. I would really like them to reference and take note of San Francisco...and NOW, under Mayor Lurie, but they are NOT going to want to, for the most important things.

A comment moved over from a Mpls Times piece..

For our state, and especially for Mpls and the Metro, this is a very good city to WATCH. A great interview in the video clip, below.

*Don't have to be on FB for it to open.

San Francisco's mayor tells me misguided progressive policies failed his city — "We lost our way." I went out to San Fran for Mayor Daniel Lurie's first network interview ... an interesting — and refreshingly optimistic — conversation.

You can watch it here: Jonathan Karl | Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/jonkarlabc/videos/san-franciscos-mayor-tells-me-misguided-progressive-policies-failed-his-city-we-/854889840746706/>

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[Terry Rossi](#)

Now · [Howe](#)

Of course the DSA voting block could also pay attention to cities like SF....for this. But money, budgeting, and fiscal concerns seem to be of little interest to them, in Mpls, so instead they will use their time, which is OUR time, and OUR money to focus on bath houses right now ?!

* SF has about twice the population of Mpls. There is a possible 500 staff lay offs/ terminations for city staff, in the works there. So, pretty sure that EVEN San Francisco is not hyper focused on their bath houses right now..

The San Francisco Standard Breaking News City layoffs begin: Lurie hands out 127 pink slips The first round, affecting 18 departments, is part of a larger effort by the mayor to eliminate 500 positions.

Excerpt...from the SF Chronicle. For years, city spending has been out of sync with its tax revenue, which has been constrained by a weak recovery from the pandemic, particularly downtown. Lurie said in a statement Monday that San Francisco could either "take action now or be forced to do twice as much in the coming years" to solve its budget difficulties. "The steps we're taking today are a painful but necessary continuation of the work we've been doing since last year to manage taxpayer dollars responsibly and deliver the best possible services for San Franciscans," Lurie said. "That work will continue as we prepare a responsible budget that sets up our city for a broad and durable economic recovery."

Reply

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Waldegerma, Michael

From: Grant Johnson via Smartsheet <automation@app.smartsheet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Council Comment
Subject: Public Comment: Gale Jorgensen



Public Comment: Gale Jorgensen

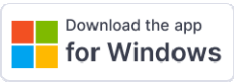
Date: 04/07/26, 9:25 AM

2026-00265

I was one of the residents who worked hard on getting the bath houses and saunas and the street walkers shut down back in the early 80s and just today on Facebook I found out that they were going to redo the ordinances that we worked so hard to have put in place. I do understand that things have changed since then and I do hope that this is a healthier view of sex and not as predatory as it was in the 80s, but I'd still like them to reconsider because this decimated neighborhoods. Once a neighborhood is subject to sex trafficking, it becomes at higher risk for drug trafficking and other crimes. This was really putting down women and making a whole population very vulnerable.

Ward: Ward 8

I don't know, share with all City Council



Waldegerma, Michael

From: Grant Johnson via Smartsheet <automation@app.smartsheet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 12:03 PM
To: Council Comment
Subject: Public Comment: No Bathhouses & More



Public Comment: No Bathhouses & More

Date: 04/07/26, 12:00 PM

No Bathhouses

We do not need this flith in our city... We do not need to pander to the alphabet army everytime just so they can have sex in new places. As if we needed to open a super spreader of incredibly gross diseases. Didn't a bunch Alphabet people transmit TMVII (a nasty fungus) during the first "No Kings" Protest, lol? Its a major health and safety risk, we should get them the council they need, instead of pushing danerous and inapproirate stuff like this, this isnt the kink council. Reenact the 38 year ban. Ordiance by Oridance you people are turning Minneapolis into the next Detriot, and thats not a good thing.

Everything you people do drags the city backwards.

We have immigrants making us pay for their people, with one council member nearly in tears because she didnt get her way, (LOL CHILDISH BEHAVIOR). How is she even representative of the City - Am I missing a large Bengali or Paki population here? Thank you to the common sense people that blocked the goofy vote, stop accomodating foreigners at our expense. Studies show Somali and other Horn of Africa people are a net - 250K lifetime expense, meaning they will never contribute to society but only use benefits, others are not as bad but still incredibly negative. We got some people giving out free drug kits and narcan to encourage drug use. You have race based policies and benefits. You people have no accountability, you

blame everything on Trump, when in reality, everything wrong with Minneapolis is only your fault and it has been your fault, you're the mistakes in the city. No one else.

Please start locking up these super predator "teens", we should not have to live like this, those parents don't need any more help, we can lock them up with their predator child, see how they like dealing with those problems. We should not have to wake up everyday and see windows smashed. We shouldn't have to have our insurance rates raised so some little gang bangers can roam freely and never have consequences. Just having these heathens in our area is a problem, fix it. It's the same people, same groups - you know who they are, yet refuse to address the issues, you keep blaming some socioeconomic, or redline boogey man, when in reality, the parents are worthless and raised an ever worse child. These predators are being returned home, only to escape hours later and, again, wreck havoc on the city.

We don't want them "newcomers", everyone you are inviting to our City and State are a net negative and financial drain. Making us a Trans and Immigrant Hideout was a massive mistake and has only brought more people dependent on public services, meanwhile you continue to chase out and demonize all the useful people in the City. I'm sure they are nice people, but I'm tired of paying for them and having everything change for the negative just to have them.

Hell, around Lake Calhoun the other day, I heard 6 different languages, that is not a positive, benefit, or anything good. Mandate English.

Ward: Ward 5

I don't know, share with all City Council

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From: trossi1113@aol.com
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council mtg 4/9, agenda items #24-27, Adult Bath Houses and Sex Venues.
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 12:40:51 PM

Check out this post

https://nextdoor.com/p/s3dFfs78BpyR?utm_source=share&extras=NzY4MzMzMyNDM%3D&utm_campaign=1775666353386&share_action_id=95a2cc8e-0c91-41cd-a1c2-ce25d1e6cb9d

[Jenny Marie](#)

30m · Edited · [Fulton](#)

I am an open and affirming ally. And, I was a child back in the day when porn shops, bath houses and massage parlors littered Hennepin Avenue. It was a seedy, dangerous and family unfriendly area to avoid. Block E revitalized downtown, bringing multiple measures to make downtown safe again. I fear bath houses will make existing problems worse and further erode the safety and sanctity of our city. Furthermore, bathhouses negatively impacted other businesses on the block, such as hardware stores and hair salons. 54th and Nicollet started to thrive after bathhouses were banned. While imperative, clear consent language is still just language. Bathhouses have and are ripe for rape. They create more opportunities for sexual assaults and TRAFFICKING, which are a reality. Full stop. San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Athens, Barcelona, Paris, London, et al, have major, ongoing, bathhouse / massage parlor related, public health and safety issues. Our city does not need an ordinance that invites problems. We need solutions to our current problems. The same problems that lead to shutdowns still exist.

They will require more policing, oversight, and enforcement.

- Human trafficking •Sexual assault
- Underage entry •Fire and occupancy code violations •Drug use / possession
- Immigration / trafficking •Prostitution / solicitation •HIV/STI •Licensing •Zoning
- Hygiene and sanitation •Noise violations
- Public nuisance complaints

San Francisco: bathhouses were closed in 1984 after public health officials linked them to high-frequency anonymous sexual contact accelerating HIV transmission; the same problems still exist today despite tight legislation and oversight—high-frequency anonymous contact, inconsistent protection, substance use, limited traceability, and human trafficking indicators continue to create the same transmission and safety dynamics that originally drove closures

(<https://www.sfaf.org/collections/breaking-news/decades-after-san-francisco-closed-its-gay-bathhouses-a-new-law-paves-the-way-for-their-return/>;

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/000000086.htm>).

New York City: oversight centers on STI risk, licensing, prostitution, and trafficking activity

[https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/sexual-](https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/sexual-health.page)

[health.page](https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/sexual-health.page); <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/investigative/special-victims-division.page>).

Los Angeles County: permits for sex venues cite unprotected sex, higher HIV/STD risk, and drug/alcohol use increasing unsafe behavior

https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/019096_breport062104.pdf).

Seattle: reporting STI risk, drug use, illicit

activity, and trafficking tied to massage businesses
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/health-safety/disease-illness/hiv>; <https://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/human-trafficking>).

[Terry Rossi](#)

1d · [Howe](#)

My concern is simply this...OUR city has some significant challenges, and RIGHT NOW. This specific group on the council, the DSA aligned/Wonsley voting block, AKA, The Chugleys, are only interested in certain things, (that appeal to them) and much, almost all of it, has absolutely nothing to do with helping the city through its PRESENT challenges. Our City staff, (through our clerk, I believe) made a statement, which I will try to locate, indicating that they are being buried, inundated, with all these requests to work on this, or that, from THIS faction on the council.

There is only so much city staff time, that WE PAY for, so how much time is actually LEFT for running the city....which means providing CORE services, in a fiscally responsible way. This group, the DSA faction on the council, does not seem to be a bit interested in, or concerned about, as OUR paid employees, in the functions required for city governance, as listed in their job description.

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From: [Grant Johnson via Smartsheet](#)
To: [Council Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment: (2 entries)
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026 4:28:06 PM



Public Comment: (2 entries)

Public Comment:

Date: 04/09/26, 4:26 PM

"Ward 10 representative Aisha Chughtai seemed caught off guard by the attention the ordinances received, saying the process is about fixing decades of racist, homophobic, xenophobic policy and language."

Shut the hell up with this nonsense, we are sooooo sick of these foreigner's opinions. Another Foreigner Meltdown - thats the Bengali, Paki, and Mexican now. We are so sick of you people constantly playing a useless victim card. We're sooo sick of these stupid buzzwords. Nothing in the bathhouse articles even relates to race or religion so she doesnt know how to use the words properly, just another pathetic attempt at attention. We just dont want your gay sex houses. Stop saying "our" city, youre not from here, never will be - We need laws to restrict who can be council members bc she is not qualified in any sense.

Instead of trying to attract more businesses and wealthy residents you are doing the complete opposite and just concerned about were Chavez can have his next disease spreading sex party??? What next, he is going to cry some more? This council is filled with idiots who act like children. Youre unprofessional, illiterate, overweight, SSRIs, lack any sort of common sense, ungrateful, most of you arent even from Minneapolis or Minnesota (let alone the country), discriminate against businesses for no reason, harbor illegals, have public melt downs... I mean what do you people do right? What do you do to benefit the majority? Why are we always being held back by these low lifes, non contributors?

Meanwhile the streets continue to rot, crime from one group continues to rise while those super predators terrorize the city, all because you are wasting

money else where.

Ward: Ward 2

I don't know, share with all City Council

-

Public Comment: Rachael Hurrelbrink

Date: 04/09/26, 4:25 PM

Appointments subject to city council approval

I am writing to request that the charter commission respect the status of the people in governance. The city council should remain a key process in approving appointees. We do not want the charter changed. Appointments have not been difficult to pass through except when the appointees were demonstrably poor choices.

Ward: Ward 4

Charter Commission

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