

From: [Jenna Sadjadi](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: FW: Please take a step back from the plans to close the homeless encampments
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:32:14 PM

From: Lisa M. Burke <misslisam@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2026 8:10 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Mayor <Mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please take a step back from the plans to close the homeless encampments

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

Dear Mayor Her and Council President Noecker,

I'm writing today to say that I have very serious concerns about the plans to close the three large homeless encampments in St. Paul. I understand there will be a special hearing on the afternoon of 7/22 but I'm unable to attend, so am writing instead.

I understand the camps are not safe places for homeless people and that efforts will be made by public health and DSI staff and the Office of Neighborhood Safety to get the homeless in these camps housed and connected to resources and services. On paper that looks good, BUT we know that not all the homeless people who live in these camps, and elsewhere, are open to accepting help for myriad reasons. And many are expected to migrate into downtown St. Paul. This will take us back to a time we don't want to experience again.

It wasn't that long ago - Two years? Three? More? - that we walked by groups of homeless people (some very large) living in tents and under tarps wherever our walks around downtown took us: by the river along Warner Road and Shepherd Roads; on the hillside along 4th Street, just west of Wakan Tipi; near the History Center; on the bridge on Cedar Street that crosses the freeway; in Lilydale; and on many small patches of grass under trees elsewhere in downtown.

Trash, human feces and urine, discarded soiled clothing, torn tents and other detritus were seemingly everywhere. We often saw people experiencing psychotic episodes throwing things, including a trash can that was launched into Wabasha Street in front of Candyland. Frightening! Sitting in Rice Park one afternoon we watched as guests to the St. Paul Hotel were helped out of their cars by a uniformed doorman, AND a homeless person removed much of his clothing and entered the fountain to bathe. Our condo building, on Wacouta Commons, was broken into a number of times and on several occasions homeless people were found to have spent the night - smoking, drinking, urinating in the stairwell. We invested a lot of money on camera upgrades, and mullions and astragals on the doors to prevent more

break ins.

In more recent years things have improved hugely. Sure, we still see some people sleeping on park benches or experiencing the occasional psychotic meltdown on the street, and from time to time people take refuge in our courtyard, but we don't expect to see these things every time we leave our building.

I know, from attending a number of meetings, including the monthly community meetings at the SPPD Central District headquarters and the Downtown Action Series meetings, that a LOT of effort has been going into making St. Paul safer, cleaner, more vibrant, and more attractive to investors and potential residents. I have been a devoted champion of these efforts, communicating to whoever will listen that we are on the cusp of a renaissance, and that downtown is a wonderful place to live. The perception that St. Paul is a dangerous place, in decline and beyond salvation, can be a hard one to overcome, but there have been many tangible things to point to in conversations with those who hold this view.

Let's not undo all the good that has been done downtown! Let's not give people who hold those sticky negative opinions of our community any ammunition! AND let's not turn homeless people who call these out-of-the-way camps home and who reject assistance, as sad as that is, into our streets with nowhere to go. This plan doesn't appear to serve anyone well! Have the homeless people who refuse help and want to stay in the camps been asked what THEY want, what might serve them best?

We've been told the people in the camps are routinely visited by, among others, members of the HART team and the SPPD, who try to provide resources, get people housed and clean up the camps for those who refuse to leave. I'm trying to understand why this can't continue until a real plan can be established.

Are there models elsewhere in the country for more successfully dealing with these complicated issues?

I strongly urge those involved in this ill-conceived plan to take a step back and not rush into executing it!

Thank you.

Lisa Burke

225 9th Street East

St. Paul 55101

From: [Jill Chisholm](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Please pause the encampment closures
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 9:55:05 AM

[You don't often get email from jillchis@msn.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Council,

I am writing today to ask you to pause the planned closures for the Fish Hatch, Shepard, and Kmart homeless encampments. I am aware that these encampments are not a long term solution for the housing needs in St. Paul but closing them now will likely cause an increase in overdose deaths, hospitalizations, and deaths for the people currently living in them. Pausing the closures will allow time to improve sanitation at existing camps while growing St. Paul's capacity for safer, more permanent, and affordable housing. By engaging our public and private resources we can create better solutions for all.

I lived in St. Paul for 42 years before moving to Roseville a few years ago. I have been a member of Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway at the corner of Snelling and University Avenues for 43 years. At this church we host a free meal and other programs for people in need in the community. We meet and have relationships with a lot of unhoused people who are trying to survive and find stable housing. When these people have a place to live, even if it is an encampment, they fare better and are less of a burden to the larger community.

Thank you for your time and service,

Jill Chisholm

From: [Donnelly, Kathleen](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Written testimony for the 7/22 public hearing on the Mayor's Encampment Plan
Date: Sunday, July 19, 2026 9:13:24 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kdonnelly@mncare.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Assistant Mayor Baker and the Council, thank you for inviting testimony. I am a family nurse practitioner with Healthcare for the Homeless here in Ramsey County. Mybefore team provides primary care in the encampments. I'd like to start with empathy. In the meeting with unsheltered providers, Assistant Mayor Baker mentioned the concern of the city receiving calls about overdoses and assaults, fires and thefts. Working in this job for the last ten years, I want to empathize with the difficulty of receiving these calls. When I care for people after fires and assaults or lose patients that I have known through many phases of their lives, it is very sad, and I grieve alongside the partners and friends in this community. I think we are in agreement that the conditions people face living unsheltered can be brutal. Sweeps do not improve this.

The steps that the unsheltered service provider community has taken since the encampment sweep moratorium was lifted after the COVID lockdown have exponentially increased the number of people connected to health care, case management, and many other services, including housing. We are able to do this well in St Paul and Ramsey County because we can find our patients and clients.

In the announcements from the Mayor's office, it is frequently stated that a reason for the evictions is concern about the public health, and I wanted to follow up with this example of the current public health research:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2835712>. Particularly this quote, "there is ample evidence that encampment sweeps increase social and health harms without achieving any of their stated policy aims - reductions in homelessness, encampments, or mortality among marginalized populations of unhoused people." Indeed, there is no evidence to counter this. Dr. Kumi Smith at the University of Minnesota recently finished a study based on Minneapolis' policy of encampment evictions, which found there is a sustained increase in overdoses and deaths following an eviction. Caring for the health of the public includes not actively harming these residents.

The well-documented methods of increasing public health for people living in encampments include access to toilets, handwashing, and general hygiene. "Access to health and hygiene services like water, bathrooms, and waste removal are important public health measures for preventing the spread of infectious disease and should be prioritized wherever possible." This is from MDH's guidance on promoting health and preventing infectious disease in encampments:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/homeless/coe/encampment.pdf>

The unsheltered provider community and my team have been able to prevent widespread outbreaks of the diseases that are described in this document in the current encampments because of their stability. We can stay in relationship with people, complete their treatment, develop steady medication schedules, and build trust through continuity of care.

This is also true for chronic illness management, including schizophrenia, seizure disorders, diabetes, and high blood pressure. In the years prior to the policy of allowing encampments if I, for example, was delivering a patient's insulin, I might need to go to several potential places before I could locate them, if I could locate them. Insulin must be refrigerated; we refrigerated it at the clinic, and I delivered smaller amounts at a time. Without insulin, people become sick very quickly and often have to go to emergency rooms to avoid a coma. When people are sick, it is difficult to perform tasks or attend appointments. With chronic illnesses, including HIV and schizophrenia, when a medication lapses, it can be less effective when restarted.

My current patient panel is around 200 people. In the years before the current policy, it was less than 100, in large part because most of my day was spent locating patients rather than providing health care. The clinic at the shelter inside St Paul Opportunity Center closed at the end of June, so we do not now have a place for people to come to us, if they have the capacity to follow up on their own.

People back then might pause for a night or two before they shifted to another temporary camp, or their tent or belongings were thrown in the trash. If they had medications that were thrown out, I would need to replace them, usually by a few pills at cost or by repeated prior authorization processes. If they had paperwork that they were using to work towards housing or health goals, we would have to fill it all out again. The amount of duplicated work that people had to do was significant.

The burden on the unsheltered community and providers in the event of mass encampment evictions will be substantial. Providers are already operating at maximum capacity, and in the current political climate of funding, we do not have the resources to expand. Camp sweeps will increase the pressure on emergency rooms, transit, businesses, jails, and shelters that do not have space. The current state of things could be improved by improving conditions, not insisting they drift from spot to spot without regular access to their providers and resources. This is also backed up by research from the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council: <https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NHCHC-encampment-sweeps-issue-brief-2-pager.pdf>

Councilmembers, please enact a moratorium on encampment sweeps until there is a plan to mitigate the proven and profound negative impact on the public health.

Thank you for your time,

Kat Donnelly, FNP, RN, PHN

Healthcare for the Homeless

From: [Kathy Johnson](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure Plan
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 9:27:07 AM

You don't often get email from kjohnso929@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm asking you to publicly support a pause on the planned encampment closures. Please urge the Mayor to slow this process down, improve conditions at existing encampments, and build a coordinated public-private response that brings together residents, outreach teams, healthcare providers, housing organizations, and community partners. Success should be measured by how many people move into stable housing-not by how quickly encampments disappear.

Thank you.

Kathy Johnson

From: [Emily Hager-Garman](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public comment re: City's Encampment closure
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 1:41:57 PM

You don't often get email from ehagergarman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I write to you as a St. Paul resident fearful for the wellbeing of my unhoused neighbors. Research shows that displacing people and closing encampments without a back-up plan to shelter residents does more harm than good.

Every resident (no matter their housing status) deserves dignity, empathy, and respect.

Many experts are weighing in alongside people with lived experience. Please reconsider and look at the data to inform your decisions.

Below I have included a number of resources for your review.

"Harsh policies of encampment displacement will have negative immediate and downstream impacts on this community."

From a peer reviewed journal article illustrating findings from a participant observation study of 30 unhoused people.

Source: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37980786/>

The Univ of MN School of Public health is also actively researching this topic, "testing the hypothesis that encampment sweeps may harm the health of homeless people through material loss, trauma, and community fragmentation."

Source:
<https://www.sph.umn.edu/news/sph-researchers-exploring-health-impacts-of-homeless-camp-closures/>

Below is an abstract from American Public Health Association (APHA) in 2023; highlights mine.

Title:

Protecting the Health and Well-Being of People Living Unsheltered by Stopping Forcible Displacement of Encampments

Abstract:

Forced removals or displacements of encampments, sometimes called "sweeps," endanger the

health and well-being of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and impair access to safe, stable housing or shelter. Forcible displacement of encampments is a temporary cosmetic fix and does little to effectively connect unhoused people to services and housing. People experiencing unsheltered homelessness deserve to have their health and well-being protected, their choices respected, and an opportunity to choose their own plans for accessing safe, stable, and permanent housing. Many evidence-based solutions offer bridges into permanent housing without violently uprooting encampments, residents, and their personal property. Instead of forcible displacement, cities and states would be more successful by adopting, practicing, and investing in Housing First approaches, permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing models, sanctioned encampments, and/or safe outdoor spaces.

Source:

<https://www.apha.org/policy-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-briefs/policy-database/2024/01/16/displacement-of-encampments>

I sincerely hope you acknowledge the devastating harm your actions will cause for our unhoused neighbors *and* our larger community. Invest in humane and evidence-based alternatives. Cancel the sweeps across St. Paul.

Emily Hager-Garman
843 Clear Ave
St. Paul, MN 55106

From: [Sonia Romero](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: St Paul Safety
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 12:15:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Public Comment



Sonia Romero
She/Hers
Executive Assistant
Council Member Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul
Direct: 651.266.8663
Office: 651.266.8660

From: Jules Langlois <jlcalypso2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 12:14 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: St Paul Safety

You don't often get email from jlcalypso2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Recently, St Paul mayor Kaohly Her made an announcement calling for the demolition of a few of the most prominent St Paul encampments.

These sites have been a refuge for our unhoused neighbors, allowing them to find community and a better sense of safety while struggling with the soaring housing costs in the Twin Cities.

While there are many stereotypes regarding encampments such as drug use, violence, and “crime”, it has been empirically proven that it is far more dangerous and potentially lethal to conduct mass demolitions. In fact, Her’s suggestions and rhetoric echo the same sentiments as Trump’s executive order 14321, “Ending

Crime and Disorder on America's Streets."

This executive order called for the criminalization of homelessness, alleging that unhoused people are the source of violence and threats to public safety. It claims the reasons for these issues are prolific drug use and mental illness. But rather than address the systemic oppression and bureaucratic failures that have led to a drastic increase in the unhoused population, president 47 instead called for immediate institutionalization to "restore public order".

We don't have to look far back in history to find horrific results of similar policies. The callous ableism and refusal to accept responsibility is unfortunately not something that came as a surprise from the sitting president, but the residents of St Paul expressed disgust and outrage when we heard the same discourse coming from a mayor who claimed to prioritize the rights and dignity of her constituents.

As a response to the outcry from St Paul residents, Mayor Her released a social media post where she claimed that "One of the first issues city departments brought to my attention was the growing public health and safety concerns regarding unsheltered encampments. Over the past eight months, we have listened to residents, met with service providers, spoken with outreach workers, and spent time at the encampments talking with people living there."

We as residents of St Paul know for a fact that her claims are not true because it has been the residents of St Paul who have been talking and listening to our neighbors. It has been us who have been doing outreach and providing care. And it has been the St Paul residents who have been making sure our unhoused neighbors do not suffer due to the lack of action and service our mayor claims to provide.

Her ended her post stating, “Our decision to take action is only one part of a larger, long-term plan, and we invite all service providers, civic leaders, elected officials, and community members to join us in creating lasting solutions that no single organization or level of government can achieve alone.” This “decision” she mentions is the decision to demolish the encampments completely, leaving our unhoused neighbors with nothing and nowhere to go. We have yet to see any part of this “larger, long-term plan” besides the endangerment of our neighbors and affronts to human rights and dignity.

We have already seen the consequences of actions such as this in other cities. An article from Wtop News published in October 2025 states “The National Alliance to End Homelessness (<https://endhomelessness.org/>) said clearing the camps can backfire by disrupting access to critical services, destroying personal belongings and pushing people into more dangerous or hidden areas. Experts say the practice increases psychological stress, worsens health outcomes and can even raise the risk of death — all while failing to address

the root causes of homelessness.” They go on to address the fact that the only safe way to remove encampments is to FIRST secure a place for people to go. Otherwise, demolition will only result in moving people farther away from vital resources and access to care.

ProPublica released a project titled “Swept Away” that illustrated the traumatic consequences of encampment demolitions. Researchers found that such clearings predominately work to perpetuate homelessness in communities (Talbot, et al 2024). This is in large part due to the items that are confiscated during large-scale sweeps. Social services, Medicaid, disability benefits, food stamps, housing and vehicle documentation, and identification for job applications are typically lost when encampments are demolished by city ordinances.

“Having possessions taken traumatizes, exacerbates health issues and undermines efforts to find housing and get and keep a job” (Talbot, et al, 2024). Additionally, ProPublica found that many belongings taken “included supplies purchased using government funding” (Talbot, et al, 2024). This means that by demolishing encampments, the government is wasting its own money. Residents have also lost tools they use to work and vital medications due to city sweeps. “When medications or medical devices are taken, health conditions can worsen, and visits to emergency medical services can increase” (Talbot, et al 2024). The ProPublica project put the humanitarian crises of encampment demolitions on full display.

Mayor Her's unilateral decision to eradicate encampments and leave our neighbors without homes or resources is a direct product of fascist ideology and the oppressive authoritarian regime she has claimed so adamantly to be working against. Demolition on this scale is inhumane at best, and realistically extremely dangerous and maliciously cruel.

We, the residents of St Paul, demand better from our mayor and our local government officials. Research has shown that effective interventions to address homelessness must include harm reduction practices, ongoing support by qualified practitioners, flexible and forgiving program policies, and access to immediate housing if/when encampments are swept (Foell, et al 2025). All people deserve basic rights, dignity, and access to care. The blatant disregard of people who are facing the most oppression is an affront to us all. We demand an immediate retraction of this declaration and a detailed plan of action for establishing permanent, stable housing for all St Paul residents.

References:

Etter, A. (October, 2025). Flushing out homeless encampments does more harm than good, expert says.

Wtopnews. <https://wtop.com/dc/2025/10/expert-says-flushing-out-homeless-encampments-causes-more-harm-than-good/>

Foell, A., Marino, N., Call, A., McLeod, B., Parra, S., &

Ghobadi, A. (2026). Fidelity to Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing: Staff Perspectives and Implementation Insights. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 52(3), 536–556.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01488376.2025.2560866>

Her, K. [@mayorkaohlyher]. (July, 2026). When I became mayor-elect. Instagram.

https://www.instagram.com/p/Da33ovNDS_g/
(https://www.instagram.com/p/Da33ovNDS_g/)

Talbot, R., Fields, A., Santa Cruz, N., & Miller, M. (October 2024). Swept Away. ProPublica.

<https://projects.propublica.org/homeless-encampment-sweeps-taken-belongings/>

Trump, D. (July, 2025). Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets: Executive Order 14321. The White House. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/07/ending-crime-and-disorder-on-americas-streets/>

Jules Langlois

He/him/his

<https://linktr.ee/jlmirage>

From: [*CI-StPaul_CC-Ward6](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: feedback regarding pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 12:02:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Public Comment



Sonia Romero
She/Hers
Executive Assistant
Council Member Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul
Direct: 651.266.8663
Office: 651.266.8660

From: heather c. lou <heatherclou@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 10:48 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_CC-Ward6 <CC-Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Mayor <Mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: feedback regarding pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5

You don't often get email from heatherclou@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

i am against the pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5. the money should be used toward resources, shelter, medical care, and support for encampment residents, not to displace and harm them. evictions and encampment sweeps make an already vulnerable population even more vulnerable to incarceration, institutionalization, and trafficking by ice/federal agencies. these sweeps make dispersing resources and medical care during crises such as heat waves and bad air quality days even more dangerous to residents and their livelihoods. i urge mayor her, saint paul city council, and collaborating agencies to halt the evictions and to meet directly with encampment residents, local organizations, and public health experts to develop and transparently share a plan moving forward that centers the health and safety of all constituents. public servants must be accountable to constituents- and the current planned eviction/sweep on 8/5 is dangerous, harmful, and not within best practices.

in solidarity,

heather c. lou, m.ed. (she/her/hers)*
hclouART | queerly unique art
visual & multimedia creative
website: hclouart.com
facebook: facebook.com/hclouart
linked in: linkedin.com/in/heatherclou/
email: hclouart@gmail.com

“Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society.” –Yuri Kochiyama (1921-2014)

*self-expression and self-identification are some of my values. one way to practice these values includes the ability to share preferred gender pronouns. my name is heather and i use she/her/hers pronouns. what pronouns do you use?

From: [Sonia Romero](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: Letter Opposing Encampment Closure Plan
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:50:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Public Comment



Sonia Romero
She/Hers
Executive Assistant
Council Member Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul
Direct: 651.266.8663
Office: 651.266.8660

From: Catherine Card <catherinecard112@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:01 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Letter Opposing Encampment Closure Plan

Some people who received this message don't often get email from catherinecard112@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Dear Mayor Kaohly Her, Assistant Mayor Baker and Council Members:

When I read the information you put out concerning the closure/clearance of the encampments of our unhoused neighbors, starting August 5th, I was struck by the lack of understanding about homelessness—its roots and the complexities of its causes and the remedies for it—reflected in your words. And I was also struck by the arrogance in your justifications and what you call your “guiding principles”. You seem to be imposing this clearance plan on the community without getting a wide range of input from our neighbors who are encamped at those sites and from the many, many members of our community who know them, work with them and try to provide for them. Your words and your plans also reflect the typical gut response of city leadership feeling the pressure of the monied, **the housed**, and the powerful voices in the community telling you to “DO SOMETHING...OR ELSE.” Is that a big factor in your imposing this plan on our community?

You say you are carrying out these closure plans “as a response to growing concerns about the health, safety and DIGNITY of those staying at the sites.” Really? DIGNITY? If you were really concerned about the DIGNITY of these unhoused neighbors of ours, you would have gathered the St. Paul community together long ago and begun providing even just basic, safe, low barrier/no barrier shelter for everyone in need. If you were really concerned about the DIGNITY of our neighbors, you would have spent time with them, gotten to know them and their stories and their ideas about solving their housing problems. **Have any of you done that? Have you involved them in your planning?** What you define as dignity may not be what they

would care about.

Besides that, your imposing this sudden date of August 5th reflects anything but concern for your unhoused neighbors' dignity. Or their safety or stability! I suspect you just want to satisfy members of our community who want everything cleaned up and tidy and are not interested in the time and effort it takes to provide shelter and then stable housing for folks who, in many cases, have been through hell and back, are going through hell and back with their histories of trauma (including especially childhood trauma, rape and war), incarceration/arrests, addictions, mental and physical illnesses, and with the fact, for many of them, that they are people of color. According to the Minnesota Homeless Study 2023, 77% of our unhoused neighbors in the Twin Cities Metro area are people of color, including Native Americans. Discrimination of all types, including against one's race, factors in one's life history or one's mental or physical health, plays a large role in a person being able to find housing here.

And add to all these barriers to securing housing for our neighbors the fact that for many of them survival on the streets, in shelters, in "flop houses", etc. has been a way of life for some time. When a person lives on survival level, unsure of where they can pee and poop, unsure of where their next meal will come from, unsure of where they can clean up or take a shower, it becomes hard to break that mentality, that reactivity. So, moving folks from being unhoused to stable, reliable, safe shelter or housing is not a simple thing. People who have lived rough, lived exposed to the elements, lived with addictions need a great deal of day-to-day support, in many cases, for an extended length of time, in order to succeed at being housed.

Homelessness is not easily solved for most people. It takes time, it takes consistent effort, and it takes patience. Cleaning up the encampments, if it means just moving people out of one location, with the consequence that they will just settle in another space, is not only ineffective, but it goes against all your supposed guiding principles. Please consider backing up, taking deep breaths and then approaching this issue of the encampments in a different way:

- *Seek broader community input and reflection, including from the unhoused community, the faith communities, and the agencies and organizations interested in finding solutions for homelessness here.
- *Set a more realistic span of time for completion, in consultation with the community.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Reverend Catherine Card (retired)
1181 Edgcumbe Road #402
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: [Sonia Romero](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:51:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning Greg,

Question: Do we forward you these types of emails for comments?

Best,



Sonia Romero
She/Hers
Executive Assistant
Council Member Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul
Direct: 651.266.8663
Office: 651.266.8660

From: Kaden Bieger <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 8:31 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Nelsie Yang,

I know some of the people living on Saint Paul's streets personally and I beg you not to waste my tax payer money with evictions and instead put it towards their PERMANENT housing, which despite what the city claims, many unhoused people are desperate for. Many are resistant to shelters because of how dangerous they are--I know at least one person who was assaulted in a Saint Paul shelter, and many others who are afraid that will happen to them. It is a sad state of affairs when encampments feel safer to people than shelters, and many are barred from permanent housing because of criminal backgrounds, substance use, etc. Please invest in real and long term solutions that allow ALL unhoused people safety and dignity and STOP THE UPCOMING SWEEPS. Thank you.

Kaden Bieger
kbie1601@gmail.com
1474 Charles Ave
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

I

From: [Debbie Thompson](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Council](#)
Cc: Councilhearing@ci.stpau
Subject: encampment closure
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 9:45:46 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from debjthom54@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to support a pause on the planned encampment closure. REsearch demonstrates that forced displacement severely disrupts healthcare access, housing navigation, and trusted community relationships thereby increasing the risk of overdose, illness, and death among our unhoused neighbors.

Please work with community partners to develop a coordinated plan before moving forward with any closures.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thompson
Member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church In-The-Midway
436 Roy St. N
St. Paul

From: [Jon Jee](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: 7/22/26 Meeting - Encampment eviction
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 9:29:30 AM

You don't often get email from jonjee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Mayor Her and the Council,

As a St Paul resident (Ward 4), I urge you to reconsider the plan to evict the unhoused people at Pig's Eye Park, scheduled for August 5.

Existing data does not support the efficacy of evictions to combat homelessness at either a systemic or individual level; scattering people will create additional barriers to those seeking stability and will only serve to move alleged drug use and violence into smaller, harder to address pockets throughout the metro.

Having lived in Minneapolis from 2010-2021, I saw the strategy of evictions and criminalization of poverty repeatedly traumatize and unsettle unhoused community members while eroding public trust in both the Mayor and the City Council. I know a few of you personally and believe you are more compassionate and more creative than this. As our elected leaders, I believe you can and must use City resources to find a better way.

Thank you for your service to St. Paul and our shared community.

Jon Jee

--

Jon Jee
he/him/his

From: [Phil Aitken](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Opposition to Unhoused Encampment Evictions
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:57:43 AM

You don't often get email from paitken15@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

I submit this comment in strong opposition to the mayor's plan to remove unhoused residents of St. Paul from their encampment communities. I am extremely disappointed in Mayor Her and any City Council member who supports this policy. I will not re-elect any supporter of this action, and I will not re-elect Mayor Her if she carries out this plan.

The mayor's office says emergency calls about or to the camps have not decreased after attempted interventions. The encampments have received very little ongoing support, which, if provided, may actually reduce emergency calls about or to the camps. Resources used on the emergency calls would be better spent helping the encampments improve conditions with access to clean water and other basic needs.

The mayor's office says that similar sweeps were conducted in 2024 and 2025. If these evictions accomplished the Mayor's stated goal of "forcing" encampment residents to go to shelters or accept other aid from non-profits or the government, then these residents would not still be gathering in encampments.

The mayor's office says they are working with residents to find out their needs and place them appropriately. According to residents, these evictions are conducted by private construction companies and police officers. These private construction firms do not take proper care or precaution in breaking down tents, simply bulldozing shelter and belongings without regard for even whether anyone is inside a tent before doing so. Residents say that the construction firms often do not even check for people inside before dismantling them, nor do they allow time for people to retrieve any belongings, including in at least one case, the remains of a resident's deceased father. Police officers are not trained for the compassionate help the encampment residents need. Residents report being insulted and mistreated by the police who remove them. The evictions should not move forward at all, but if they do, I pray that police have nothing to do with them.

The mayor's office says that conditions in the encampments are undignified. At an encampment close to my home, I've seen its residents living and acting in as dignified a manner as they are able. It's very difficult to live in "dignified" conditions when circumstance forces you to live in a tent away from the eyes of others for your own safety and privacy. The resources used to carry out these evictions would be better spent giving the encampments access to basic necessities like clean water or adequate trash pick-up. Private citizens give these people the aid they need because the government refuses to do so. The responsibility should not fall solely to other residents of the city. The City government should also be doing its part.

Residents of encampments say they don't go to shelters because those conditions, too, are "undignified." They are unsanitary. They are overcrowded. They are underfunded. The City proposes to spend resources removing these people from where they live instead of spending those resources better toward the goal of improving the encampments or the shelters.

The Mayor says that encampment residents should go to shelters one minute, and then the next admits that there are not enough beds. She says that isn't her problem. Encampment residents are residents of St. Paul, which means they are her responsibility. She will take enough responsibility to remove these people from where they live, but none for a duty of care we have as fellow human beings.

The mayor completely abdicates responsibility for the care of these residents. She says the City is not responsible for their care - the county is. This is craven and cruel. By saying this, Mayor Her is saying that she does not want to give actual support to these people.

Many encampment residents don't have official documentation to receive proper support. Many are people who immigrated to this country and have been unable to access aid which can communicate in their own language if they don't speak English. There is safety in community. Undocumented residents of the encampments will be more vulnerable to the ongoing oppression of Minnesota at the hands of ICE. Even residents born here will be more vulnerable to arrest, imprisonment, or even death without nearby support from other unhoused individuals in community with them. If they cannot enter shelters for lack of space or inability to adhere to strict rules such as dress code, then all the City has done is displaced them again with nowhere to go.

I support proposed plans to halt such encampment evictions for two years and spend those two years and the resources proposed to carry out the evictions to provide essential infrastructure and needs to the encampments based on what their residents say they need. This is compassionate. This is empathetic. This is action worth taking. It looks better for the mayor and the city council to provide real support to our unhoused neighbors.

I do not support encampment evictions. I do not support displacement of any individual from where they reside. I support more compassionate use of resources spent in that manner to support the encampments and achieve "dignified" conditions. To displace them is cruel, ineffective, and wasteful.

Thank you.

Phillip Aitken
St. Paul homeowner

From: jpolum@proton.me
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Council Hearing - Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 12:20:05 AM

You don't often get email from jpolum@proton.me. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening,

I am a resident of Saint Paul writing in to submit my comment for the upcoming council meeting. I am extremely concerned about Mayor Her's planned attack to displace and remove our neighbors from the multiple encampments across the city. This cruel, heartless decision will destroy lives and leave vulnerable people to increased risk. Our city needs to be moving to meet with the communities impacted and address their actual needs with tangible solutions (that are actually livable and humane, as opposed to many existing shelters) rather than bulldozing their communities and destroying their belongings.

I hope to see actual action moving towards assisting our neighbors in this desperate time and an active push against Mayor Her's actions.

Thanks,
J Polum

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Natalie Elise Thompson](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Encampment comments
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 12:09:50 AM

You don't often get email from n.e.thompsonmusics@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

First I want to thank you for your time in reading this email. I have submitted public comments for Wednesday's council meetings, but I am writing to expand further on the thoughts I provided.

It is always my goal to think critically about what is happening around me- in fact I have just been accepted into a masters program at the University of Minnesota, I believe, for my written essay on why I want to pursue social work. While this email may not reflect the best of my writing or editing/revising skills, I hope that it serves to communicate the compassion with which I approach civic, social, cultural, and political issues.

As I have stated in the public comment section, I am an educator in St. Paul Public Schools. It is my most fervent passion to do this work as an educator- and at the heart of my work, I care the most about the Disability community. My work however, can not be done without the attention I give to cultural, racial, language, and social lenses. My practice is intersectional. It is about meeting students where they are at and coming to the table as authentically as possible.

I am worried about the city's plans for the encampments. I have heard that there is a discrepancy in numbers that feels extremely overlooked in all of the communication coming from the Mayor's office. 200 some people being evicted with less than 75 beds available? I mean... it just doesn't make sense. Okay... it has been said that there are beds elsewhere in the state- have you ever moved to another location WITH a support network and money? Can you imagine moving somewhere WITHOUT those basic things? Have you put yourself in the shoes of an unhoused person experiencing addiction?

We know that there are many restrictions on what makes someone eligible for shelter use. Are they clean (from drug use)? What is their gender? Does the individual have a pet? Does the individual have children?

On top of that, if I put myself in an unhoused person's shoes, I think- "What is the point in checking into an overnight bed in the first place?" Can you imagine?

Imagine having to keep all of your belongings together and organized, in for the night, out in the morning, OH and- good luck finding another bed tonight.

I have heard that there was once a proposal (this was in Minneapolis) for a City encampment location where rules could be put in place, and where sanitation stations could be put in place along with porta-potties- the proposal was shut down almost immediately. I want to hear St. Paul's take on ideas like this one. Why can't there be a location set aside where being unhoused is not a crime? Why can't the St. Paul parks and rec department be involved? Why can't the funding behind these evictions be put instead towards something that builds a more permanent solution for the folks slipping through the cracks? What is the long term plan for

people experiencing addiction? Why can't there be a system to support encamped folks gain employment experience by picking up trash? How can the city of St. Paul give encamped folks agency over the care of a space? If the encamped folks have a place to stay in one spot, why can't a public bathroom be built on the site? Why can't a warming center be set up in this location? Why can't there be funding for a cooling place like a public fountain for the hot summers in this central camp? Maybe there are rules for staying in the camp- maybe there would be requirements for residents to attend bi-weekly meetings on camp chores. Maybe there could be a community garden where residents are engaged with stewardship of the environment.

Did you know that in order to implement successful long term solutions, one mixed methods study found that "Findings suggest high fidelity to HF principles and practices, including a focus on harm reduction, establishing qualified teams, ongoing staff training, and developing flexible program policies that prioritize client choice. Structural constraints within local housing markets, including the availability of temporary housing and placement into long-term affordable housing, represented persistent challenges." (From: Fidelity to Housing First in Permanent Supportive Housing: Staff Perspectives and Implementation Insights)

What is harm reduction? I wanted to see it defined myself and found a clear set of parameters here: <https://harmreduction.org/about-us/principles-of-harm-reduction/>

I hope city council members take the time to look at this website because it seems like a fantastic resource, but in the interest of communicating my full perspective, I will copy the facets here.

1. Accepts, for better or worse, that **licit and illicit drug use is part of our world** and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them.
2. Understands drug use as a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon that **encompasses a continuum of behaviors from severe use to total abstinence**, and acknowledges that some ways of using drugs are clearly safer than others.
3. Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being — **not necessarily cessation of all drug use** — as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
4. Calls for the **non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources** to people who use drugs and the communities in which they live in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm.
5. Ensures that people who use drugs and those with a history of drug use routinely have a **real voice** in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them.
6. Affirms people who use drugs (PWUD) themselves as the primary agents of reducing the harms of their drug use and seeks to **empower PWUD to share information and support each other in strategies** which meet their actual conditions of use.
7. Recognizes that **the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, past trauma, sex-based discrimination, and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to and capacity for effectively dealing with drug-related harm**.
8. **Does not** attempt to minimize or ignore the real and tragic harm and danger that can be associated with illicit drug use.

I think all of these points together form very clear approaches to addiction. While parts of it may look or feel radical, it is actually one of the best research-backed approaches to date.

Can St. Paul (Or even any city in Minnesota) confidently say that harm reduction is at the

center of eviction orders?

In the city council meeting on 7/25/26 I was impressed by the attention to detail over the decision to change the hours of lighting on St. Paul golf courses.

What I, as a resident of St. Paul, want to see: is meaningful planning that incorporates the voices of the public. I don't want my concerns silenced because it isn't politically convenient to listen to the voices of the community. Most of all I want the voices of the unhoused at the center of the conversation.

There is an appeal to ethos here that I can not pretend to hide.

Unfortunately I write this letter as someone who HAS lost family and loved ones to both addiction, and suicide. At the end of the day the only thing that would have made a difference, I believe, is agency and power over their situations. How do you give that to someone? I don't know.

I do know that in the classroom one of the things that MOST affects a students success, is the teacher's belief in their success. It's called the "Pygmalion Effect". People experiencing chronic homelessness, addiction, or severe mental illnesses are not students. Regardless of this; I challenge the public servants of **any** level of government to extend the metaphor, and consider solutions for the Cities homeless population based on the current research, best practices, and most effective approaches.

As Mayor Her has stated, this is not just a city problem. Therefore, all levels of our state government must be involved. Including- this council.

Respectfully, but resolutely,
Natalie Elise Thompson, MT-BC

From: [Justin Lewandowski](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing.\(CI-StPaul\)](#); [board@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [Anika Bowie](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#); [Rebecca Noecker](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#); [Saura Jost](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#); [Molly Coleman](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward4](#); [Hwa Jeong Kim](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward5](#); [Nelsie Yang](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward6](#); [Cheniqua Johnson](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward7](#); [tara.jebenssingh@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [maryjo.mcguire@ramseycounty.us](#); [garrison.mcmurtrey@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [rena.moran@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [rafael.e.ortega@ramseycounty.us](#); [maichong.xiong@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [kelly.miller@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [Matt Wagenius](#); [Kevin Duong](#); [Mary Xiong](#); [Finn Carpenter](#); [David Chernack](#); [Jennifer O'Rourke](#); [Abdulrahmane Abdul Aziz](#); [Laura Isdahl](#); [Joan Phillips](#); [alexis.varner@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [mikaela.campbell@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [doua.vanghernandez@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [stevenson.morgan@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [ken.iosso@ramseycounty.us](#); [panu.yang@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [kathleen.murphy@co.ramsey.mn.us](#)
Subject: Saint Paul's Encampment Sweeps Contradict Leading Public Health Evidence: Please change course, please speak out
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 9:08:09 AM

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

Subject: Pause the Encampment Closures and Build a Public Health Response That Can Actually Work

Dear Mayor Her, Members of the Saint Paul City Council, and Ramsey County Commissioners,

My name is Justin Lewandowski. I am a Saint Paul resident, Executive Director of Open Hands Midway, former Organizing Director for the Hamline Midway Coalition, a graduate student at United Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership in Social Transformation. I also have a professional background for over three years in deeply affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter systems, and city, county, and state housing policy as the former Senior Congregational Organizer for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative here in Saint Paul.

I have also spent the last several months building friendship and relationships with our neighbors at the encampments through community, camaraderie, and connection.

I share the goal of ending unsheltered homelessness. Encampments should not be permanent, and every person deserves safe, stable housing.

But the planned closures of the Fish Hatch, Shepard, and Kmart encampments move us in the wrong order: displacement first, without enough housing, shelter, or coordinated support in place. This isn't an opinion.

The clearest evidence comes from the **American Public Health Association**, one of the nation's leading professional public health organizations. APHA was founded in 1872, represents more than 25,000 individual members and a much broader network of public health professionals, and develops policy through a formal review and Governing Council process. Its positions are not casual opinions; they are evidence-based recommendations developed through the public health profession.

APHA's conclusion on encampment displacement is direct:

“Forced removals or displacements of encampments...endanger the health and well-being of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and impair access to safe, stable housing or shelter.”

It further states that forced displacement is a **“temporary cosmetic fix”** that does little to connect people with services or housing. Instead, APHA recommends Housing First, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, low-barrier options, sanctioned encampments, and safe outdoor spaces as bridges toward permanent housing.

That matters because public health, safety, and “dignity of the residents” have been offered as reasons for these closures. Yet the leading public health guidance tells us that uprooting people without adequate alternatives will worsen public health outcomes, individual health, sever outreach relationships, disrupt access to services, and make stable housing harder to reach. You can't provide wrap around services to displaced and scattered people.

The science and expertise is clear. What most disturbing to me is how this enforcement action has been rolled out

I was present on July 8 when Assistant Mayor Cedric Baker announced the closure plan to frontline workers from the City, Ramsey County, and community organizations. A clear majority of the people in that room had spent years building relationships with people living outside. They were not being invited to help design a response. They were being informed of a decision that had already been made. They were devastated.

You can not drag people into collaboration after the fact and call it collaboration.

The people closest to this work—especially encampment residents, street outreach teams, shelter providers, public-health workers, healthcare providers, harm-reduction organizations, and housing navigators—must be involved before major decisions are finalized if we want to do this right. Their relationships are not peripheral to the solution. They are among the most important infrastructure we have.

I am also deeply concerned, Mayor Her, because your plan follows the same basic playbook the Trump Administration is advancing nationally, only with a softer narrative: disregard public health experts and evidence, define visible homelessness as disorder, remove encampments first, and present services or compelled treatment as the alternative even when sufficient housing does not exist. The Trump White House has described its goal as removing “vagrant individuals from our streets,” called for the “prompt removal and cleanup of all homeless or vagrant encampments,” and promoted moving people into “long-term institutional settings” through civil commitment. President Trump has put it even more

plainly: “We will use every tool, lever, and authority to get the homeless off our streets.”

Saint Paul and Ramsey County do not have to follow the same path as the Trump Administration. We already know how to build meaningful public-private partnerships. The work around Snelling and University has brought together government, businesses, community organizations, service providers, and residents to address complex challenges that no single institution could solve alone. The Rice and Larpenteur Alliance similarly demonstrates what becomes possible when cities, the county, businesses, nonprofits, and community members commit to shared responsibility over time.

We can and should apply that same model to unsheltered homelessness.

We have also seen through Operation Metro Surge that moments of crisis require communities to coordinate people, resources, communication, and response. The rapid-response and mutual-aid work was not sanctioned or directed by the City or County; it was organized by trusted community groups responding to immediate needs. Government cannot simply announce a plan and expect frontline organizations to absorb its consequences. Real partnership means shared planning, shared authority, transparent information, and investment in the organizations already doing the work. It also means engaging one of our greatest resources: the people of Saint Paul who want to help—neighbors, faith communities, volunteers, businesses, and community organizations ready to be part of a humane and effective response.

That is why I am pleading with Mayor Her to change course—and calling on our City Council members and Ramsey County commissioners to speak publicly against the current path.

Pause the planned large-scale closures for two years while a coordinated, data-driven alternative is built. Use that time to measure outcomes, learn from the work, and continue the long term and need work across city, county, and state governments for resources that match the scope and scale of this crisis.

During that transition, stabilize current sites with water, sanitation, trash collection, healthcare, harm reduction, storage, housing navigation, and consistent outreach. Protect and fund the relationships that make housing placements, healthcare access, recovery, and long-term stability possible.

Convene a genuine public-private partnership that includes people living in the encampments, outreach workers, Ramsey County Public Health, healthcare systems, shelters, housing providers, harm-reduction organizations, neighborhood groups, faith communities, businesses, philanthropy, developers, the Saint Paul HRA, Minnesota Housing, and relevant state agencies.

We should measure success by how many people reach safe and lasting housing—not by how quickly tents disappear from public view.

The APHA has given us a clear public health framework. Our own local partnerships have shown us how to organize across sectors. The missing piece is the political will to pause, bring people meaningfully to the table, and build the alternative before uprooting hundreds of people that will result in poor health outcomes, wasted tax dollars, and the deaths of too many of our people.

There is still time to choose a better path.

Justin Lewandowski

Saint Paul Resident

From: [Eric Velleux](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public comment opposing the encampment closure without plan
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:43:46 AM

[You don't often get email from edvellex@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello Government Representatives,

I am writing regarding the closing of homeless encampments in Saint Paul. I would love for us, as a citizenry to take care of our fellow humans, including the those of us without homes. I'm disappointed that our elected officials don't appear to agree with that, and even beyond that, decide that it is ok to be cruel to our brothers and sisters by criminalizing misfortune.

I would love for there to be a detailed plan as to how to move forward on the issue of closing encampments in a humane manner. Homeless people are people too, and deserve the respect that all should be exhibited to everyone.

Thank you,
Eric Velleux

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cameron Taylor](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Encampment sweep plan public comment
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:36:25 AM

You don't often get email from cameronltaylor18@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to share my disapproval of the city's plan to evict members of the St. Paul encampments. I agree with the mayor that the conditions in encampments bring health and safety concerns, but displacement is no way to address that issue. According to a study by the National Association of County & City Health Officials, encampment sweeps lead to up to 70-90% higher rates of overdose death, loss of access to medical devices and medication, increase the spread of infectious disease, and put residents at risk of bodily harm from traffic or other hazards as they seek out new locations. Beds in shelters may be a good temporary solution for some residents, but we have heard many times from residents that shelter beds have too many restrictions that limit people's autonomy. Encampments aren't just random assortments of people waiting for the city to offer them a bed in a shelter. People form support structures within their communities with a certain level of trust and coexistence that does not remain when people are displaced to shelters or new locations around the Twin Cities.

I understand that the city of St. Paul faces a budget deficit this year, but the displacement of encampment residents is no way to solve that issue. The mayor cited high numbers of 911 calls responding to the encampments as a reason for their closure, but I would charge the city with looking to other sources of income not only to cover the cost of emergency services, but to increase spending on resources for unhoused people that reduce those calls. For example, the city of St. Paul could raise the tax rate for the highest income rate, or create a new tax bracket that represents only high-earning outliers in St. Paul could easily pay for emergency services and other supportive services to the encampments. Encampment sweeps themselves also pose an unnecessary cost to the city and its residents. I strongly urge you to rethink the hasty encampment sweep plan and consider how to come up with solutions alongside residents to improve health and safety outcomes that you claim are most important in this situation.

Thank you,
Cameron Taylor
cameronltaylor18@gmail.com
(314)779-9664

From: [Karen Shore](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public comment opposing the encampment closure without plan
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:26:53 AM

You don't often get email from karenengelshore@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

As a longtime Saint Paul resident, I object to closing Saint Paul's 3 encampments without a detailed plan for supporting the human beings who have been living in them. It is unconscionable to me to simply announce a closure, make camping illegal, and not have a solid, detailed, well-communicated plan for where these people will go. Not only is it inhumane, it is also shortsighted - instead of being centralized and able to benefit from centralized services, these people will now be scattered around the city, less able to get help and more vulnerable to attack.

When I voted for Kaoly Her for mayor, I was intrigued by her promise to make Saint Paul more attractive to businesses. She touted her connections with the state legislature and county offices, so I thought she would use those connections to encourage businesses to move in. I did not imagine she would try to appease businesses by cracking down on homelessness in this cruel way (and then try to market that as "care"). Mayor Her, please slow down and take the time to form a collaborative plan for housing; do not evict the encampments or criminalize sleeping outdoors until such a plan exists.

Sincerely,
Karen Shore
55104

From: [Morgan Weinert](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Camp Sweep Hearing
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:14:06 AM

You don't often get email from mlmweinert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Morgan Weinert and I am a resident of District 10 in Saint Paul. I am also a nurse practitioner who works with unhoused people and who used to work in mobile medicine in Saint Paul.

In my work in mobile medicine, I visited people at encampments to address acute and chronic health conditions. I also helped sign off paperwork to help people get onto housing wait lists. When people were in established encampments, I was able to follow up with them appropriately to ensure they got better. When encampments closed, we often lost track of people and in the time out of contact they would get worse and need higher levels of care that could have been avoided. When outreach workers can't find their clients, they might miss out on a housing opportunity.

Closing camps because of crime does not mean the crime will stop. People experiencing homelessness often say they feel safer in encampments because people are looking out for them. Sexual assault, violence, overdose etc will still happen to this population- you'll just isolate individuals so the violence will go un-observed.

Sweeping camps without an alternative for folks just means the camps will pop up somewhere else, or that folks will remain scattered. Leaving folks in encampments that are more or less off the beaten track so they can continue to work with health care providers and their outreach workers will mean more people get connected to housing and other resources. Closing encampments will cause more harm to an already vulnerable population, especially if done without safer alternatives.

You can't just say "encampments are inhumane" without offering more services and low-barrier housing options. Homelessness is inhumane and reflects the issues in our society/government- but Saint Paul can set new examples by recognizing the encampments are home for many people because there aren't better alternatives- and help use encampments as a stepping stone to stability instead of yet another source of instability.

Thank you,
Morgan Weinert, PMHNP, AGPCNP

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [kim.deprenger](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Encampments
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 7:07:07 AM

You don't often get email from kimdeprenger@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Her, I have no idea how to solve the issue of encampment of unhoused people, especially if residents refuse services offered to them. I definitely do not want an encampment in my neighborhood, but it seems like your office is rushing into closing the 3 encampments. That is what I am reading in comments. What housing has been offered? I'm sure there is a shortage and being eligible for housing with no or negative rental history. There is a place in Minneapolis that has tiny homes inside it. Has that option been explored? Can people even get SNAP or Medicaid due to work requirements and red tape. It's infuriating. I understand the urgency of dismantling the encampments due to their disfunction and dangers at times. But the outcry to have a more solid plan seems reasonable.

Sincerely,

Kim Deprenger

1323 Minnehaha Avenue West

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Nen Ramirez](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Opposed to Mayor's Encampment Eviction Plan
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:36:26 PM

You don't often get email from ramirezgorskier@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello council,

The plan to evict the residents of the Pig's Eye Park encampment by August 5 is a cruel and irresponsible decision that will cost lives. There are essentially no beds in the shelters in the cities and waitlists for GRH can be months to years. Studies have shown that encampment evictions cause a severe increase in overdoses. Our neighbors will be left with nowhere to go, stripped of their community, with less access to consistent resource distribution, and more vulnerable to incarceration and trafficking by ICE. This will cause more deportations of already vulnerable community members, who you supported during Metro Surge. These are your neighbors that you fought for. Tearing them from their homes is not humane, nor is it compassionate. Please use the money you'd spend on evictions for adequate resources for the unhoused like handwashing stations, more portapotties, and naran.

Best,
Nen Ramirez

From: [Elizabeth Drumm](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Encampment Closures
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 5:54:20 PM

You don't often get email from end1628@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Madame or Sir,

I urge you to pause the planned encampment closures. Please work with the residents at the encampments, public health experts, Ramsey County and community partners to develop a coordinated housing-centered plan before moving forward.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nowlin Drumm, a resident of Episcopal Homes on University Avenue

From: [heather c. lou](#)
To: [Kristin Koziol](#)
Cc: [#CI-StPaul_Ward4](#); [*CI-StPaul_CC-Ward6](#); [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Re: feedback regarding pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 5:10:03 PM

You don't often get email from heatherclou@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you. I appreciate your response and have included Ward 6, the larger City Council address, and Mayor Her on this email for transparency around questions for 7/22.

I would like information about:

- what local organizations, agencies, and public health experts has mayor her and or stpcc consulted with regarding the eviction and impact of sweeps on encampments?
- what is mayor her and stpcc's understanding of best practices regarding supporting unhoused neighbors?
- mayor her and some stpcc and other elected officials have visited the pigs eye encampment... and the posts on social media have been othering and dehumanizing toward encampment residents. mayor her initially said this was a county issue and then met with encampment residents... after local experts and activists called attention to the issues with encampment sweeps/evictions. can mayor her and stpcc please take accountability for this harm? this is the burden and role of elected officials- and without accountability, trust lowers.
- please provide a detailed list and outline of resources that will be provided to encampment residents?
- what is the proposed budget and line items for this eviction on 8/5? is sppd being compensated and how much? i dont believe policing should be involved in this process. any budget should be provided to prevention services and direct care for residents.
- why is this encampment eviction occurring during the heat of summer and while the aqi is at unsafe/unhealthy levels? are there less negatively impactful ways this administration can provide prevention and harm reduction services? what housing options will be provided?

Thank you.

in solidarity,

heather c. lou, m.ed. (she/her/hers)*
hclouART | queerly unique art
visual & multimedia creative
website: hclouart.com
facebook: facebook.com/hclouart
linked in: linkedin.com/in/heatherclou/
email: hclouart@gmail.com

“Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society.” –Yuri Kochiyama (1921-2014)

*self-expression and self-identification are some of my values. one way to practice these values includes the ability to share preferred gender pronouns. my name is heather and i

use she/her/hers pronouns. what pronouns do you use?

On Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 3:59 PM Kristin Koziol <kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Hi Heather,

Thank you so much for reaching out. CM Coleman shares your concerns and in partnership with CM Bowie, the chair of the City Council's Public Safety Committee, will be bringing Assistant Mayor Cedrick Baker from the Mayor's Office and Ramsey County Manager Ling Becker to answer questions that councilmembers have at the July 22 Public Safety Committee Meeting (12:30-1:30 PM, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 15 W Kellogg Blvd). This will be an informational meeting that is open to the public but will not have a public speaking component. It will also be livestreamed and recorded on the City's [Youtube channel](#).

To make sure community members also have a public forum to share impacts and ideas, later that same day there will be a special meeting of the City Council that is just a public hearing dedicated to Mayor Her's encampment closure policy at 4:30 PM also in Council Chambers. All seven councilmembers and, as we understand it, a representative from the Mayor's Office will be there to hear from community members. Anyone who wants to speak will be given two minutes and their testimony will become part of the public record. Written testimony will also be accepted (by sending an email to councilhearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us by 12pm the day before).

Our office continues to collect questions and concerns to bring to all of our internal and external conversations to make sure that the mistakes we've seen in other cities when a policy of encampment closure isn't accompanied with a thorough, comprehensive support plan aren't repeated in Saint Paul.

Thank you again for emailing and for being a caring neighbor.

Best,
Kristin

Kristin Koziol (she/her)

Executive Assistant to Councilmember Molly Coleman, Ward 4

15 W Kellogg Blvd - Ste 310-D

Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-8640

E: kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us

City of Saint Paul Logo



From: heather c. lou <heatherclou@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 10:47 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_CC-Ward6 <CC-Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; *CI-StPaul_Mayor <Mayor@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: feedback regarding pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5

Some people who received this message don't often get email from heatherclou@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

i am against the pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5. the money should be used toward resources, shelter, medical care, and support for encampment residents, not to displace and harm them. evictions and encampment sweeps make an already vulnerable population even more vulnerable to incarceration, institutionalization, and trafficking by ice/federal agencies. these sweeps make dispersing resources and medical care during crises such as heat waves and bad air quality days even more dangerous to residents and their livelihoods. i urge mayor her, saint paul city council, and collaborating agencies to halt the evictions and to meet directly with encampment residents, local organizations, and public health experts to develop and transparently share a plan moving forward that centers the health and safety of all constituents. public servants must be accountable to constituents- and the current planned eviction/sweep on 8/5 is dangerous, harmful, and not within best practices.

in solidarity,

heather c. lou, m.ed. (she/her/hers)*

hclouART | queerly unique art

visual & multimedia creative

website: hclouart.com

facebook: facebook.com/hclouart

linked in: linkedin.com/in/heatherclou/

email: hclouart@gmail.com

“Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society.” –Yuri Kochiyama (1921-2014)

*self-expression and self-identification are some of my values. one way to practice these values includes the ability to share preferred gender pronouns. my name is heather and i use she/her/hers pronouns. what pronouns do you use?

From: [Reed Fowler](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#); [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 10:54:50 AM

You don't often get email from reednoel3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear St. Paul City Council,

My name is Reed Fowler, and I am a resident of Dayton's Bluff, and serve as a pastor in Apple Valley. I am writing to ask that you oppose the mayor's encampment closure plan. The folks living in the St. Paul encampments are our neighbors, and closing and evicting the camps without a clear and supportive plan for alternative, accessible, and consent-based housing is inhumane.

Please pause the evictions for at least two years, while committing to improving conditions at existing camps, expanding housing and shelter, and building a public-private coalition between encampment residents, Ramsey County, healthcare providers, outreach teams, faith communities, neighborhood organizations, and mutual-aid groups. I urge you to consider success to be based on how many people move into stable housing - not how quickly the encampments disappear.

The encampments are people's homes - please do not evict our neighbors without viable and livable alternatives in place, that you would be in favor of, if they were your best option. This will take time, and care, and does not start with mass eviction and the harm and trauma that causes.

Thank you,
Pr. Reed Fowler

--

Reed Fowler
he/him/they/them
Artist and Pastor (ELCA), n/OEF
reedfowler.com

From: [Kyr Kyrgyzstan](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 10:35:25 AM

You don't often get email from kyr.kazakh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council and the City of St. Paul,

My name is Lily and I live in Rondo in St. Paul's Ward 1. In two weeks' time, my friends will have to watch as their homes are demolished. Many have lost everything, from ID documents to relatives' ashes, in similar evictions in the past. Many will lose everything again. Public health studies (cf. Barocas et al. 2023) strongly indicate that some of my friends and neighbors will likely die from being scattered across the city, deprived of reliable easy access to the basic medical supplies needed to prevent lethal overdoses.

In the face of this humanitarian crisis of the City's own creation, what is the 'solution' the Mayor's Office is promising, the 'housing' it swears it has? Shelters where recently-sober people are forced to live with many who are still actively using. Barracks like Dorothy Day where 219 men must sleep together in one space. Apartment complexes with unhygienic bathrooms, absent managers, and rooms inaccessible to people with disabilities. And a waiting list that currently stands at 2,668 people as of Tuesday morning.

If you (an encampment resident) don't like those options? Well, then, you are 'refusing housing.' You are liable to be arrested or institutionalized. If you are one of the dozens of residents — many Hmong or Karen — who don't have their papers (perhaps because they were swept up in prior evictions), your arrest may be used as pretext to deport you from the country you've called home for decades.

It doesn't have to be this way — there is another path. A path where St. Paul upholds its commitment to ensuring dignity and justice for all its denizens. One where the Mayor's Office does not turn its back on the very immigrant communities it swore it would protect only six months ago. It starts by investing in the basics, the things that lighten the cost of service-providing elsewhere: additional portable restrooms at all three camps; running potable water; and coordinated healthcare outreach. This proactive approach would mitigate new health crises, preventing their costs from falling on local and county health providers. Simultaneously, St. Paul could adopt a comprehensive housing plan that rehabilitates uninhabited housing stock, builds new emergency shelters, and uses innovative strategies like Avivo's indoor tiny homes shelter program. This plan would lower the cost placed on first responders and better address St. Paul's acute housing crisis.

Encampments are difficult and sometimes unsafe places to live — but they also have many wonderful people who are doing their best to support each other and live another day. The response a city has to its encampments and its unhoused population is often a microcosm of its overall direction, an echo of how it wants to treat its own people. The Mayor's Office's current plan signals a reflexive desire to simply wipe the land 'clean' of this 'gross' situation — as if people could be erased as easily as pencil lead. That strategy, in addition to being cruel, has failed American cities for decades. Ask any encampment resident during an honest conversation, or look at any meta-analysis study across regions, and you'll see that.

I want to live in a St. Paul that looks at this situation and asks its own residents — particularly its own unhoused residents — how it can genuinely do better. Do not let our city get set back decades by just one month of inaction and misconceived policy. Action to stop these sweeps will be remembered by myself and many others at the ballot box for many years to come. Inaction, and complicit silence, will be remembered just as strongly. For my part, if these sweeps occur, I personally pledge to never again vote for Mayor Kaohly Her, anyone in the Mayor's Office associated with this plan, or any City Councilmember who does not publicly oppose the sweeps. Whatever happens, I and many other friends and colleagues will continue being on the ground, talking to unhoused St. Paulies, supporting them day by day and seeking policies that actually align with their needs. Will the City of St. Paul be able to say the same?

Sincerely,
Lily Eggers
St. Paul Ward 1 Resident

From: [Nicolai Selness-Whitehead](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#); [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment: Cancel the Pig's Eye Encampment Closure
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 10:12:34 AM

You don't often get email from nicolaiselnesswhitehead@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Council President Noecker and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing to ask the City Council to oppose and take action to stop the planned August 5 closure of the Pig's Eye Park encampment, as well as the administration's broader plan to close Saint Paul's remaining encampments.

I recognize the serious health and safety concerns at Pig's Eye. Overdoses, fires, violence, exploitation, and unsafe living conditions require urgent action. But the existence of those dangers does not justify displacing the people experiencing them. Closing an encampment does not end homelessness or make people safer. It scatters residents, separates them from their communities and outreach networks, and pushes the same crisis into smaller and less visible locations.

The city describes these closures as "service-centered transitions" rather than sweeps. But services do not need to be paired with forced removal. Residents should be able to accept housing, shelter, treatment, and other assistance voluntarily without losing the place where they currently live before a safe and appropriate alternative exists.

A referral is not housing. A temporary shelter bed is not a permanent solution. And relocating people from one unstable situation to another is not a successful transition.

I am asking the Council to:

1. Publicly oppose and take action to stop the August 5 closure of Pig's Eye.
2. Reject the planned rolling closures of Saint Paul's other encampments.
3. Redirect city resources toward sanitation, harm reduction, fire prevention, medical care, outreach, and other resident-identified safety needs at existing sites.
4. Expand voluntary pathways into permanent housing without making displacement a condition of receiving assistance.
5. Require meaningful participation from encampment residents, outreach workers, mutual-aid organizations, and service providers before adopting policies that directly affect where unhoused people can live.

Saint Paul cannot sweep its way out of a housing crisis. The answer to unsafe conditions is to provide what people need to become safer—not to remove them from public view.

Please use the Council's oversight, legislative, and budgetary authority to stop these closures and pursue solutions grounded in housing, harm reduction, and human dignity.

Thank you,

Nicolai Selness-Whitehead

651-870-3488

From: [Megan Unrau](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Comments for 7/22 Public Hearing on Mayor Her's Plan for Encampment Closures
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 11:24:06 AM

You don't often get email from unrau.megan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Councilmembers,

I am against Mayor Her's plan to evict residents of the Pig's Eye/Fish Hatchery encampment on August 5. This plan cannot be allowed to move forward.

Shelters in Saint Paul and Ramsey County have no room, and organizations working with our unhoused neighbors know there are not adequate resources to support the residents who would be displaced by an eviction. Encampment sweeps and evictions put an already vulnerable population even more at risk for incarceration, institutionalization, and decreased health and safety.

Displacing these residents and destroying their property also makes it more difficult for organizations who are actually helping to disperse what resources are available and provide medical care.

To move forward with this plan would be inhumane and cruel. We have also seen how ineffective this approach is, demonstrated time and time again by Minneapolis.

I urge the City Council to protect ***ALL*** Saint Paul residents and do whatever you can to push back against Mayor Her's harmful, uneducated, and disastrous plan. Encampment residents are our neighbors, too. They are your constituents, too.

Thank you,
Megan Unrau
667 Iglehart Ave, Saint Paul

From: [Cynthia McArthur](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Encampment plans are encouraged
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 11:07:24 AM

You don't often get email from cynthia.mcarthur@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Her and Council Members,

I know the pushback from many about closing the encampments is creating stress and uncertainty, but I am encouraging you to stay true to the mission of closing them and helping those in the encampments find other solutions. I feel strongly that our city should not allow these encampments to exist because of the safety risks, lack of resources, and unsanitary conditions people are subjected to. Unhoused people face complex issues, and many can be resolved with a team of volunteers, city staff, and medical personnel who help individuals find solutions. And, some of the people who use encampments have the means to find housing, live safer, and have money to pay subsidized rent but would rather not. All in all, the use of our police for so many calls to the encampments, the unsanitary conditions in the encampments, the drug and violence that people are subjected to, and the filtering into neighborhoods near encampments of theft and robberies by some in the encampments make it all the more important that we come together and figure out a different path to helping close the encampments and make camping illegal in the city of St Paul. When I hear of pushback from others who think that the people in encampments are being treated unfairly, I ask - how is it fair to accept doing nothing and letting them live in squalor and unsafe conditions??

Thank you Mayor Her and Council members for being brave, taking on this tough issue, and staying the course for positive resolutions for those who are unhoused and living in encampments.

Cynthia McArthur
1295 Juliet Ave
St Paul MN
651-231-0414

From: [Sara Feld](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: a constituent against proposed pigs eye eviction on 8/5
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 12:22:40 PM

You don't often get email from sfeldatwork@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am against the pigs eye encampment eviction on 8/5. The money should be used towards resources and support for encampment residents, not to displace or harm them. Evictions and encampment sweeps make a vulnerable population more vulnerable to incarceration, institutionalization, and trafficking by ICE/federal agencies. These sweeps make dispersing resources during a crisis, such as heat waves or bad air quality, more dangerous to residents and their livelihoods.

I urge Mayor Her, St Paul City Council, and collaborating agencies: to halt the evictions, to meet directly with encampment residents, public health experts, and local organizations, and to share a plan moving forward that is centered on the health and safety of all residents (especially those in our city who are most vulnerable).

From: [Thalia Drori](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#); [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Mayor's plan to evict Pig's Eye residents - Please vote against
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:41:14 AM

You don't often get email from thaliadrori@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for the special hearing on the Mayor's plan to evict Pig's Eye Encampment residents.

I am a clinical counselor and a housed resident of Downtown St. Paul.

Please support our St. Paul community by putting a stop to this ill-devised plan to put people on the street. As someone who has been homeless, I can tell you that there are few places for people to go in St. Paul. I was mortified when I moved here years ago to learn that in a place that gets to 20 below zero there are only four shelters for people to stay overnight. Of these shelters, they all have special criteria as to what they allow: Couples, families, children men, or women. That means that most families have to choose between being broken up or staying together. None take emotional support animals. That means that people who have animals have no choice but to be in a camp or on the street. Breaking up families goes against everything humans are about. We need each other. That's why we have rituals for marriage, children -- that's why we have family units and communities. Camps provide community.

You might believe the mayor when she says that they are going to get housing for people. It is not that simple. There is a waiting list hundreds of people long for housing and for shelters, and with shelters, people are required to have smart phones with minutes on them to be able to access shelter. Moreover, people need to haul their belongings around town during the day.. This is not practical, nor is it humane. The reality is, this is a plan of erasure. It is sweeping people as if they are trash. No unhoused residents are on any of these boards or have been consulted with. The so-called experts are all housed individuals. This is absurd and surreal. The people who have the solutions are the people who are being swept.

I propose that a committee of unhoused residents be formed, and that their needs are heard by the City Council and the mayor. Then, and only then, can a plan be made with calm and patience, on how to get housing for people that is inclusive. How can the city help elders who might not know how to use smart phones to access job applications? How can people find housing that allows them to have animals and that keeps families together? Let's be slow, deliberate, practical, and inclusive. The mayor's proposal is cruel, and will traumatize many, and lead to more drug overdoses and deaths than she cites as a main reason for the evictions.

Thank you for working with us on this.

Thalia Drori Ramirez
26 W 10th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

From: brigitte.menger-anderson
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Please add to public comment for 7/22/2026 hearing on encampment evictions
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:41:08 AM

[You don't often get email from findb@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I'm so disgusted.

My comment:

Current outreach actions being taken in the camps aren't effective for the majority of people because there is no affordable housing, we allow landlords to require unrealistic income requirements and can deny applications based on poor credit, UD's/evictions. When is the county going to start co-signing for people who have no one?

What's the plan to help people leave their camp areas with the items that are important to them, or is the bobcat coming in again to clear ground and stack things into piles? How much money does the city spend to construct giant fencing around areas that they clear?

For the Lorient/Kmart camp, any plans to open up the old rehab facility at the end of Rose ave that sits empty with residential units and a facility kitchen?

You aren't going to force chronically homeless people to accept services that have been offered and failed them over and over. This is only going to result in evicting people in a heat surge, with poor air quality, during a time when most of us can barely afford our own needs let alone trying to help replace tents and coolers and food and supplies that we helped buy for the last evictions.

People are going to die, people are going to have increased trauma and suffering. You are going to push victims out of camps and back into the streets where they have been safe from some of the most violent of stalkers/abusers that I've witnessed police and social workers and judges fail the victims repeatedly.

This is not compassion and I am disgusted that you would try to gaslight us with this spin. We need coordinated moving efforts with preplanned relocation options that maintain at minimum the current level of stability they had before they were evicted.

Also, after this disgrace, I don't want to see one rich white kid pop up in a new tent overnight on Kellogg waiting to buy tickets for a concert and be allowed to stay there.

Submitted by
Brigitte Anderson
North End Resident
Outreach volunteer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Reed Fowler](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#); [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure Plan
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:41:04 AM

You don't often get email from reednoel3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear St. Paul City Council,

My name is Reed Fowler, and I am a resident of Dayton's Bluff, and serve as a pastor in Apple Valley. I am writing to ask that you oppose the mayor's encampment closure plan. The folks living in the St. Paul encampments are our neighbors, and closing and evicting the camps without a clear and supportive plan for alternative, accessible, and consent-based housing is inhumane.

Please pause the evictions for at least two years, while committing to improving conditions at existing camps, expanding housing and shelter, and building a public-private coalition between encampment residents, Ramsey County, healthcare providers, outreach teams, faith communities, neighborhood organizations, and mutual-aid groups. I urge you to consider success to be based on how many people move into stable housing - not how quickly the encampments disappear.

The encampments are people's homes - please do not evict our neighbors without viable and livable alternatives in place, that you would be in favor of, if they were your best option. This will take time, and care, and does not start with mass eviction and the harm and trauma that causes.

Thank you,
Pr. Reed Fowler

--

Reed Fowler
he/him/they/them
Artist and Pastor (ELCA), n/OEF
reedfowler.com

From: [Stuart Orlowski](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Comment on closure of encampments
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:41:03 AM

You don't often get email from stuartorlowski@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I support the closure of encampments in St. Paul. My opinion is the drug use and homeless problem in St Paul requires an interventionist policy, to get people into housing and into treatment. Letting people languish and continue drug use in an encampment is not healthy for anyone involved. If we need to create more homeless shelters and treatment centers, then it's something we need to start tomorrow.

Stuart Orlowski
598 Simpson St

From: [Kyr Kyrgyzstan](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure Plan
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:40:59 AM

You don't often get email from kyr.kazakh@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council and the City of St. Paul,

My name is Lily and I live in Rondo in St. Paul's Ward 1. In two weeks' time, my friends will have to watch as their homes are demolished. Many have lost everything, from ID documents to relatives' ashes, in similar evictions in the past. Many will lose everything again. Public health studies (cf. Barocas et al. 2023) strongly indicate that some of my friends and neighbors will likely die from being scattered across the city, deprived of reliable easy access to the basic medical supplies needed to prevent lethal overdoses.

In the face of this humanitarian crisis of the City's own creation, what is the 'solution' the Mayor's Office is promising, the 'housing' it swears it has? Shelters where recently-sober people are forced to live with many who are still actively using. Barracks like Dorothy Day where 219 men must sleep together in one space. Apartment complexes with unhygienic bathrooms, absent managers, and rooms inaccessible to people with disabilities. And a waiting list that currently stands at 2,668 people as of Tuesday morning.

If you (an encampment resident) don't like those options? Well, then, you are 'refusing housing.' You are liable to be arrested or institutionalized. If you are one of the dozens of residents — many Hmong or Karen — who don't have their papers (perhaps because they were swept up in prior evictions), your arrest may be used as pretext to deport you from the country you've called home for decades.

It doesn't have to be this way — there is another path. A path where St. Paul upholds its commitment to ensuring dignity and justice for all its denizens. One where the Mayor's Office does not turn its back on the very immigrant communities it swore it would protect only six months ago. It starts by investing in the basics, the things that lighten the cost of service-providing elsewhere: additional portable restrooms at all three camps; running potable water; and coordinated healthcare outreach. This proactive approach would mitigate new health crises, preventing their costs from falling on local and county health providers. Simultaneously, St. Paul could adopt a comprehensive housing plan that rehabilitates uninhabited housing stock, builds new emergency shelters, and uses innovative strategies like Avivo's indoor tiny homes shelter program. This plan would lower the cost placed on first responders and better address St. Paul's acute housing crisis.

Encampments are difficult and sometimes unsafe places to live — but they also have many wonderful people who are doing their best to support each other and live another day. The response a city has to its encampments and its unhoused population is often a microcosm of its overall direction, an echo of how it wants to treat its own people. The Mayor's Office's current plan signals a reflexive desire to simply wipe the land 'clean' of this 'gross' situation — as if people could be erased as easily as pencil lead. That strategy, in addition to being cruel, has failed American cities for decades. Ask any encampment resident during an honest conversation, or look at any meta-analysis study across regions, and you'll see that.

I want to live in a St. Paul that looks at this situation and asks its own residents — particularly its own unhoused residents — how it can genuinely do better. Do not let our city get set back decades by just one month of inaction and misconceived policy. Action to stop these sweeps will be remembered by myself and many others at the ballot box for many years to come. Inaction, and complicit silence, will be remembered just as strongly. For my part, if these sweeps occur, I personally pledge to never again vote for Mayor Kaohly Her, anyone in the Mayor's Office associated with this plan, or any City Councilmember who does not publicly oppose the sweeps. Whatever happens, I and many other friends and colleagues will continue being on the ground, talking to unhoused St. Paulies, supporting them day by day and seeking policies that actually align with their needs. Will the City of St. Paul be able to say the same?

Sincerely,
Lily Eggers
St. Paul Ward 1 Resident

From: [Nicolai Selness-Whitehead](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#); [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment: Cancel the Pig's Eye Encampment Closure
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:40:56 AM

You don't often get email from nicolaiselnesswhitehead@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Council President Noecker and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing to ask the City Council to oppose and take action to stop the planned August 5 closure of the Pig's Eye Park encampment, as well as the administration's broader plan to close Saint Paul's remaining encampments.

I recognize the serious health and safety concerns at Pig's Eye. Overdoses, fires, violence, exploitation, and unsafe living conditions require urgent action. But the existence of those dangers does not justify displacing the people experiencing them. Closing an encampment does not end homelessness or make people safer. It scatters residents, separates them from their communities and outreach networks, and pushes the same crisis into smaller and less visible locations.

The city describes these closures as "service-centered transitions" rather than sweeps. But services do not need to be paired with forced removal. Residents should be able to accept housing, shelter, treatment, and other assistance voluntarily without losing the place where they currently live before a safe and appropriate alternative exists.

A referral is not housing. A temporary shelter bed is not a permanent solution. And relocating people from one unstable situation to another is not a successful transition.

I am asking the Council to:

1. Publicly oppose and take action to stop the August 5 closure of Pig's Eye.
2. Reject the planned rolling closures of Saint Paul's other encampments.
3. Redirect city resources toward sanitation, harm reduction, fire prevention, medical care, outreach, and other resident-identified safety needs at existing sites.
4. Expand voluntary pathways into permanent housing without making displacement a condition of receiving assistance.
5. Require meaningful participation from encampment residents, outreach workers, mutual-aid organizations, and service providers before adopting policies that directly affect where unhoused people can live.

Saint Paul cannot sweep its way out of a housing crisis. The answer to unsafe conditions is to provide what people need to become safer—not to remove them from public view.

Please use the Council's oversight, legislative, and budgetary authority to stop these closures and pursue solutions grounded in housing, harm reduction, and human dignity.

Thank you,

Nicolai Selness-Whitehead

651-870-3488

From: [Morgan Weinert](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); contact-council@cu.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: Camp Sweep Hearing
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:40:52 AM

You don't often get email from mlmweinert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Morgan Weinert and I am a resident of District 10 in Saint Paul. I am also a nurse practitioner who works with unhoused people and who used to work in mobile medicine in Saint Paul.

In my work in mobile medicine, I visited people at encampments to address acute and chronic health conditions. I also helped sign off paperwork to help people get onto housing wait lists. When people were in established encampments, I was able to follow up with them appropriately to ensure they got better. When encampments closed, we often lost track of people and in the time out of contact they would get worse and need higher levels of care that could have been avoided. When outreach workers can't find their clients, they might miss out on a housing opportunity.

Closing camps because of crime does not mean the crime will stop. People experiencing homelessness often say they feel safer in encampments because people are looking out for them. Sexual assault, violence, etc will still happen to this population- you'll just isolate individuals so the violence will go un-observed.

Sweeping camps without an alternative for folks just means the camps will pop up somewhere else, or that folks will remain scattered. Leaving folks in encampments that are more or less off the beaten track so they can continue to work with health care providers and their outreach workers will mean more people get connected to housing and other resources. Closing encampments will cause more harm to an already vulnerable population, especially if done without safer alternatives.

You can't just say "encampments are inhumane" without offering more services and low-barrier housing options. Homelessness is inhumane and reflects the issues in our society/government- but Saint Paul can set new examples by recognizing the encampments are home for many people because there aren't better alternatives- and help use encampments as a stepping stone to stability instead of yet another source of instability.

Thank you,
Morgan Weinert, PMHNP, AGPCNP

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Nen Ramirez](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Opposed to Mayor's Encampment Eviction Plan
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:40:51 AM

You don't often get email from ramirezgorskier@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello council,

The plan to evict the residents of the Pig's Eye Park encampment by August 5 is a cruel and irresponsible decision that will cost lives. There are essentially no beds in the shelters in the cities and waitlists for GRH can be months to years. Studies have shown that encampment evictions cause a severe increase in overdoses. Our neighbors will be left with nowhere to go, stripped of their community, with less access to consistent resource distribution, and more vulnerable to incarceration and trafficking by ICE. This will cause more deportations of already vulnerable community members, who you supported during Metro Surge. These are your neighbors that you fought for. Tearing them from their homes is not humane, nor is it compassionate. Please use the money you'd spend on evictions for adequate resources for the unhoused like handwashing stations, more portapotties, and naran.

Best,
Nen Ramirez

From: [Thalia Drori](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul](#); [Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Addendum - Mayor's plan to evict Pig's Eye residents - Please vote against
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:38:13 PM

You don't often get email from thaliadrori@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members:

I would like to add one comment to my previous email. Please think about Jacob Downey. He was a young Indigenous man who froze to death downtown on Kellogg and Market in 2025, when he was trying to get warm in front of a vent in front of a building. It was at least 10 below zero that night. This should never ever happen. It is shocking that this will become more and more the norm as encampments are closed.

Please remember that people's lives are in your hands.

Thank you.
Thalia Drori Ramirez

From: kesid@aol.com
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Input for homeless encampment problem hearing 07/22/2026
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 5:27:41 PM

You don't often get email from kesid@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thanks for giving the public a chance to learn more about and have input on the problems homeless tent camps as I call them are causing many of the people living there, and the public who pay taxes and use local parks, and the plants and animals who call parks home. Please include this email in the public comments on this problem.

I have lived six blocks east of Lake Phalen for about 25 years and have been a Saint Paul Parks Volunteer for about 15. As a parks user and volunteer I have had many interactions with homeless tent camp people and with the effects tent camps have on our east side Saint Paul parks. As a volunteer I have picked up trash up and down the Vento Bike Trail, Frost Lake Park and residential streets on my way to these areas. Some years, now retired from working full time, I turn in 50 - 100 hours per year, picking up a big heavy bag of trash in about an hour.

As a volunteer at local parks, on the Board of Friends of Swede Hollow and Friends of Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, a long time seeker of the Pioneer Press Treasure Hunt Medallion hidden somewhere in Ramsey County, and a birder and Citizen Science bumble bee surveyor, and a Pig's Eye Park Friend for five years (our biggest park and former dump waiting for cleanup - see our weekly walk write-ups I do on Facebook) I have been in lots of local and county parks.

I last took a Biology Class in 1972 but as a long time Master Naturalist through the University of Minnesota Extension I see LOTS of ways our parks and other public areas could be restored back to their native plants, as has been done with the shore of Lake Phalen and a few other areas. Taking pictures of bumble bees - including one of every 200 or 300 being an endangered rusty-patched - has made me hope we can create urban wildlife corridors that they need for us to save them. They have low genetic quality according to the University of Minnesota Bee Lab experts.

As a long time Pioneer Press newspaper reader I also know about the drop-in center called Listening House here on the east side on east 7th that has a program called Work Force. They hire homeless and under-employed people to pick up trash in the area and downtown and at bus stops. I met these folks once and they were very excited about the \$20 per hour job they were able to get. I heard 80% of people applying for these jobs don't have ID, and that Listening House helps them get IDs so they can be employed.

As a Parks Volunteer here are some of the 911 calls I have had to make to try to help homeless people here east of Lake Phalen over the years:

1. Two people lying motionless/sleeping at Frost Lake Park but it was COVID so no one with the city was allowed to check on them.

2. A person lying on a street off Phalen Blvd. A firetruck was sent and the guy lept off it an yelled "This ain't a hotel buddy!" and the guy jumped and ran into nearby woods. (This approach to this problem has been improved, keep reading).
3. Helped someone with stumps for legs back into his wheelchair. Later called with him lying on the ground but he refused a place indoor from the emergency people. Later let him use my cell phone to talk to someone trying to get him documents after he was under a park shelter all night, still camping in a tent locally but no one had documents yet or a place. I left him on the ground and he and his wheelchair were gone later.
4. Called for someone hiding in a sleeping bag in a park after hearing moaning and other tent campers gathered and asked me to call 911 on my phone, and watched as he was taken away by ambulance.
5. Called about a park fire with homeless people gathered in the nearby shelter, put it out myself having controlled burn experience and wearing heavy boots, with firefighters in training arriving and finishing the job, then heading for the trail and seeing a naked man on the park bench and calling 911 about that.
6. Called about a park fire in a different park, as did a local resident. This was when a Conservation nonprofit told me 7 or 8 port-a-potties had been burned during their summer long project at a park.
7. Asked a park employee to go with me to ask a person lying motionless in an unusual place if they were OK but was told they can't do that so I asked by myself and the person got up and seemed mad and left.
8. Didn't call about a person lying motionless in a park on a path with lots of other people going by because they were sleeping and snoring. But think I should have.
9. That same week didn't call 911 about a person lying motionless in a church parking lot because no one else had but should have.
10. Did call about a person lying motionless along a park trail, very close to the trail and was told someone would check on them.
11. Did call about a person who was near a tent in a park with a note stapled to it, lying on a boulevard, after they were two hours later halfway on the bike trail. This time I was turned over to an expert on medical issues who decided they would send someone to check and the person and tent were gone soon after. 8, 9, 10 and 11 above all happened the same week.
12. Was asked to call about a motionless person in a park by someone who wanted to call but couldn't describe the location and I could. A local police officer stroked their arm and they woke and up refused an medical care though likely had a drug or other problem.
13. Called may times to report lots of trash after homeless tent camps below the Vento Trail between Arlington and Maryland were removed and the trash picked up by the city and contractors but it was still there. The last camp there trucks left a hill with just dirt, no plants to hold the soil and trees fell down. I picked up trash after two trash pickups and found about six needles - I have only found needles in camps when they got bigger and needles randomly through various parks not related to tent camps. I sent a picture of the zip lock baggie with them in it (put in there with my trash grabber, never touch needles) ready to take to the special police station set up to accept drugs but was told I can't pick up homeless tent camp trash because of this issue. I know people who do who are not official parks volunteers. And there is no procedure for anyone to pick up needles anywhere or to report where they are. There

is a map for parks in the new complaint form but no way to get a needle location accurate and it doesn't work on my phone type just my laptop at home.

14. I was harassed by two different people hooting at me from tents in a local park, and one person - not necessarily homeless - exposed himself to me. I called 911 for all three incidents when back in my car or home so I wouldn't get known by these folks. Most women I know won't walk in parks alone.

15. 50 people at a homeless shelter volunteered to camp along the Vento Trail during COVID event though there was no money for an extra port-a-potty or other services I heard through a Zoom call on the subject. One woman at or related to the camp picked up around 20 grocery carts (that were taken from Cub for use) of trash as the camp was taken down. I Sainted her in the Pioneer Press. Other people at the camp, and camps in the past over here, accepted my offers of the 3mil Contractor trash bags I buy to put trash in.

16. As a Pig's Eye Park Friend, the south park at 2165 Pig's Eye Lake Road (Child's exit off Warner, across RR tracks to last wood chip area, follow new park signs) I have only seen one tent set up in that part of the park but evidence of some homeless use, and met one woman who had to live in her car for a while.

17. Last spring a woman on a trail asked for help because she was camping in the woods because she couldn't live with her sister anymore but was from a different state, but couldn't see having lost her glasses. I called a number to get a place overnight for her but there was only one in the Twin Cities for women way north of Minneapolis. I offered to take her and her pile of stuff in a grocery cart there. But a man showed up nearby and she decided he was someone she knew and decided to go with him instead. When I was in a safe place I reported this to 911. She had been abused, with a scar on her head she showed me, and might have problems related to that.

These are all very sad incidents that people who don't do much at parks should know about that we can do more to prevent I think. I am not an expert but sometimes have ideas with maybe a couple being good ones -

1. Find state-wide money (summer before last bi-partisan money was given for homeless prevention by the Legislature as leaders of both parties knew homeless people in the Twin Cities come from all over and small towns including the one I grew up in in southern Iowa don't have good shelters or programs. So people come here. We also need Federal money if ever available as people come from other states.
2. Expand the Listening House Work Force programs and put interested and eligible people to work restoring our parks - Saint Paul Parks especially are full of buckthorn and the University of Minnesota has a new method called Cover It Up that works to take it out and keep it out unlike past methods. And picking up trash. No one is taking care of Phalen Boulevard and its Vento Trail, the former Phalen Creek bed. It is a wide ditch that was the Phalen Creek bed (think melting glaciers....) and the parking lot trash blows down into it and stays. Parking lot trash is picked up but just every week and that's not enough! Saint Paul Parks just mows over the trash. This could be part of a plan for the Vento Trail south of Larpenteur that though a Regional Park Saint Paul Parks has the contract for...but no plan last I checked the County plan for the Vento Trail. So lots of work to do and many of the homeless tent campers are able enough and wouldn't mind doing this kind of work. Note - the

Bronze Line will bulldoze the trail and put a big bridge at Johnson and at Arcade and big storm ponds where woods are. Instead homeless tent campers and others could be paid to implement the Wakan Tipi plan along Phalen Blvd and put the Bronze Line buses on the existing roads where people go 45 mph.

3. We house pretty much all Veterans and could use those same ideas that treat each person as an individual to help each of the homeless tent campers.

4. This has to be a National model as lots of people move here from elsewhere I know surveys have been done of homeless people for a long time and that information should be shared - from what I recall and see lots of people have violence in their upbringing, verbal disabilities, drug addiction, and sometimes just bad luck or what I see as normal bouts of homelessness - when I dropped out of college not knowing what to major in in 1972 in Iowa I knew to stay for two weeks in a big room at the YMCA in Des Moines and got help finding a job and nursing assistance training and a cheap place with a shared bathroom. Everyone should have this opportunity, plus help with medical conditions.

Make it easy to be good and hard to be bad, and everyone gets up each day and does some work! Applied to everyone, including homeless tent campers.

Thanks very much for the Homeless Action Response Team, for clearing tent camps here on the east side so we can go to parks again, though not "North Pig's Eye" where I used to walk, and including a 911 option of talking to a medical incident specialist. All of these things have improved the homeless tent camp situation as I see it. With more to do.

Kathy Sidles
1380 Winchell St.
Saint Paul, MN 55106
651-771-7528 (home)
651-233-6804 (cell)

From: [Caroline Daykin](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Encampments
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:17:23 PM

You don't often get email from caroline.e.daykin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Her and City Council members,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the planned clearing of homeless encampments in the city.

I appreciate the challenges involved in devising solutions to homelessness. It is difficult to find appropriate sites to house a population that may be struggling with mental illness and substance dependence. Unhoused individuals may have beloved pets that help them maintain their mental health but which shelters don't allow.

Yet solutions exist to address these issues. Housing First apartments provide unhoused people who are not yet ready to stop using substances with a place to live. Likewise, some facilities for people exiting homelessness, such as Avivo in Minneapolis, allow residents to bring their pets.

In contrast to the solutions these programs provide, the city's plan to clear the encampments attempts to simply wish the problem of homelessness away, as though the hundreds of people currently living at the encampments will disappear when they are cleared. Of course, the people who will be displaced will have to go somewhere, and given the shortage of shelter space that place will most likely be another encampment elsewhere in the city.

St. Paul cannot solve the problem of homelessness without help from the state and county. Yet funding for Grand Casino Arena topped the city's list of legislative priorities this year, despite the myriad academic studies which show that stadium subsidies do not generate enough economic activity to pay for themselves. Prioritizing stadium funding over housing for our most vulnerable residents is a policy choice that can be changed, both by the mayor and by the city council that approves the city's legislative priorities.

I ask that you seriously consider whether clearing encampments is the best use of the city's limited funds.

Sincerely,

Caroline Daykin
Ward 2

From: [Dan Zbichorski resident of Ramsey County, MN](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Help Mayor Her not make a mistake.
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:39:37 AM

You don't often get email from dan-ramseycounty@beehorsk.ee. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am Dan Zbichorski , a proud resident in the South Como part of North End, district 6, ward 5. I'm a veteran. I'm Disabled. I am narcoleptic. I am a proud father of three amazing adults. I am a husband. I am a homeowner.

Like Mayor Her. I've lived through being carried by my mother on a long journey during which we had no home and didn't know what might happen to us at the end of that journey, unlike Mayor Her I did not have a well defined community full of supportive relatives to get us through. Over the years I've had to find community where I could. Make it when I had the strength, and contribute to whatever communities I was part of wherever possible.

When my narcolepsy and associated comorbidities took away my ability to have a very successful career, my partner's careful budgeting and wise investment carried us for a while, but when they ran out and we lost our house, we were forced to take our three small children and move into a hotel. It was only with the help of my mother-in-law, my faith community at White Bear Unitarian Universalist and the compassionate caregiving community at the VA that I made it and we were able to eke out a living that would keep a roof over my children's heads as they grew. Since moving to Saint Paul. I've been blessed to grow my community. During this oppressive time the shared compassion of my neighbors has been the light guiding me through the darkness and cruelty we've all had to endure.

Like me as a child. My own unhoused neighbors have had to find community and support wherever they can. Fortunately, we live in a city that has a wealth of compassionate wise and creative people who help each other. The mayor's current plan hasn't taken those found communities and families into consideration. It has disrupted the work of the wise, caring people who are working on the care of our unhoused

neighbors. This includes work from the unhoused community themselves the city, the county and private sector people who have put in tons of time, love, work and money into helping one another. The mayors plan will not only waste much of that, but will cost additional resources at a time when the city cannot afford to make wasteful gestures, the result will be the cruel disruption of lives, and in many cases, the deaths of our unhoused neighbors. I've confidence that the mayor will correct this potentially mean and embarrassing misstep and pause. the plans to close the camps so the community can continue to seek wise, responsible, and compassionate ways to help all of our neighbors. Thank you.

"If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." - Lilla Watson

From: [Ariel Begley](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure plan
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:59:12 AM

You don't often get email from arielbegley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm asking you to pause the planned encampment closures for two years while Saint Paul builds the housing, shelter, and partnerships needed to end homelessness responsibly.

Shelters are full and accessible housing options are extremely limited. Everyone agrees encampments are not a long-term answer, but to forcibly displace these communities while knowing there is nowhere for them to go is a reckless, heartless, and ineffective path forward.

Sweeps like this do not help get folks off the street and into housing. Instead, it actually disrupts the path towards housing many of these folks are already working towards. It means service providers don't have a reliable place to go to reach the community they serve. It means whatever slice of stability, community, and home they have found there will be gone.

We know that a lack of supportive relationships is a leading cause of homelessness and self harm. This uncoordinated approach to clearing out and criminalizing these spaces will only serve to make the homelessness crisis worse. These folks deserve better than to be kicked while they are down and forcibly pushed out of community with each other and further into isolation. We know public health research shows forced displacement disrupts healthcare, housing navigation, and trusted relationships while increasing the risks of overdose, illness, and death.

I'm so very proud to be a Minnesotan and I have seen how our community can come together to support each other. We can do better. Let's take the time to collaborate and build the structures and supports we need to support our neighbors in crisis. Please pause encampment closures for two years to work with encampment residents, Ramsey County, public health experts, healthcare providers, outreach teams, faith communities, and community partners to build a coordinated housing-centered response. Thank you!

Best,
Ariel Begley
She/Her/Hers
605-300-0093

From: [Kathryn Nuernberger](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Concerns about plans to displace unhoused people
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 9:38:02 AM

You don't often get email from klnuernberger@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear St. Paul City Council members,

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the meeting this afternoon, but I want to convey my dismay at the plan to displace unhoused people in our city from encampments. In a time when there is insufficient housing alternatives, including a lack of shelter beds (though for many shelters are not an option anyway because of past traumas or mental health conditions), this action is cruel. It is also impractical, as further destabilizing the lives of people on these communities not only harms them but our whole community as social service providers are less able to connect with people in need.

I do believe the existence of these encampments is evidence of serious problems in our community. But the encampments are not the problem, only the symptom. I urge you to implement housing first solutions and listen to unhoused people themselves and those working most closely with them to provide support to determine what steps will improve life for everyone in our city. The people living in these encampments are our neighbors and your constituents. The proposed actions are not the way we should treat our most vulnerable enable neighbors.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Nuernberger in Frogtown

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_RecordsApprovals](#)
Cc: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:27:38 AM

Please add to public records

From: Alora McConnell <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 4:59 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hi,

I am a security officer and resident of Saint Paul. One of the major duties I carry out at work is looking for and talking to homeless people that enter the property that I secure. Of course the main goal is to make sure that they don't try to stay on the property. I am worried that the displacement of the homeless here will lead to more people trying to sneak onto the property thus making my job more difficult. This does put me at considerable risk. I have been doing this for a few years now and I've learned a few things about interacting with homeless people. One of the most important things I've learned is that when someone in a position of authority begins an interaction with a homeless person they set the tone for the interaction. Homeless people, like most people, will react poorly if they feel threatened. Authority must start an interaction with calmness and respect to gain optimal results. I always start by asking how they're doing and if they're okay. This establishes personhood and safety for the homeless. After that they are much more likely to listen to me and not put up a fuss when told that they need to leave. For the homeless being displaced is a very real danger. They could lose important documents and sentimental items. They could be harmed, and they can't afford to get help if that happens. Displacing the homeless doesn't fix the problem. It can add stress to individuals that are already extremely stressed. This can lead to more aggression which can spiral out of control when these individuals are forced to wander through a population that refuses to help them. If the homeless are not receiving adequate help then displacing them will make all our lives more difficult. It will also make it harder for people like me to protect our community.

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

This plan will be disastrous for the hundreds of our community members who are encampment residents. They will have nowhere else to go. Shelters throughout the Metro are dangerous, decrepit, under resourced, at capacity, and unaccommodating to special needs, while long-term and supportive housing options that are accessible to our most vulnerable neighbors have years long waits.

Past evictions have increased overdoses and caused the brutal destruction of countless personal belongings, including identity cards and other vital documents — mandatory for accessing stabilization resources. The results of eviction are violent destabilization and shuffling of tired and distressed lives from one place to another -- drawing out cycles of homelessness. The planned evictions will push our unhoused neighbors much deeper into instability.

Encampments offer a stable place for people to access resources in times of great need. They are homes for people who the system has tossed aside. Marginalized people from all walks of life seek shelter in the encampments, for example, youth, queer folks, veterans, disabled people, immigrants, and Black and Indigenous people of color. Systematic forms of oppression make stable housing a privilege and not a right like it should be, leaving encampments as the only option many marginalized people have left.

After Metro Surge, some of our most vulnerable community members have sought refuge in the city's encampments. Community members whose lives have been disrupted by ICE turn to the encampments after losing their housing and livelihoods. This problem isn't new — people harmed by the carcel system have long since had to seek shelter in encampments. To evict people now is inhumane and a slap in the face to months of organizing to protect our immigrant communities and years of work towards abolition.

People deserve to live in dignity. Encampments are supported by the tireless work of neighbors volunteering their time and resources. The city needs to step up and instead of evicting our unhoused neighbors, provide the resources encampment residents need to thrive and live safely. Every Saint Paul resident, whether they live in an encampment or not, deserves access to basic services like clean drinking water, and more than anything, a place they can call home without the risk of destabilizing evictions.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.

Alora McConnell

aloramcconnell@gmail.com

183 McKnight Rd N, Apt 213
SAINT PAUL, Minnesota 55119

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_RecordsApprovals](#)
Cc: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:29:37 AM

Please add to public records.

From: John Slade <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 3:27 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hi,

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.
- Inclusion of camp residents at decision making tables

John Slade
john.jarvis.slade@gmail.com
3 Linder Court
St Paul, Minnesota 55106

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_RecordsApprovals](#)
Cc: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:32:47 AM

Please add to public records.

From: Rachel Haakana <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 10:48 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hi,

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

This plan will be disastrous for the hundreds of our community members who are encampment residents. They will have nowhere else to go. Shelters throughout the Metro are dangerous, decrepit, under resourced, at capacity, and unaccommodating to special needs, while long-term and supportive housing options that are accessible to our most vulnerable neighbors have years long waits.

Past evictions have increased overdoses and caused the brutal destruction of countless personal belongings, including identity cards and other vital documents — mandatory for accessing stabilization resources. The results of eviction are violent destabilization and shuffling of tired and distressed lives from one place to another -- drawing out cycles of homelessness. The planned evictions will push our unhoused neighbors much deeper into instability.

Encampments offer a stable place for people to access resources in times of great need. They are homes for people who the system has tossed aside. Marginalized people from all walks of life seek shelter in the encampments, for example, youth, queer folks, veterans, disabled people, immigrants, and Black and Indigenous people of color. Systematic forms of oppression make stable housing a privilege and not a right like it should be, leaving encampments as the only option many marginalized people have left.

After Metro Surge, some of our most vulnerable community members have sought refuge in

the city's encampments. Community members whose lives have been disrupted by ICE turn to the encampments after losing their housing and livelihoods. This problem isn't new — people harmed by the carcel system have long since had to seek shelter in encampments. To evict people now is inhumane and a slap in the face to months of organizing to protect our immigrant communities and years of work towards abolition.

People deserve to live in dignity. Encampments are supported by the tireless work of neighbors volunteering their time and resources. The city needs to step up and instead of evicting our unhoused neighbors, provide the resources encampment residents need to thrive and live safely. Every Saint Paul resident, whether they live in an encampment or not, deserves access to basic services like clean drinking water, and more than anything, a place they can call home without the risk of destabilizing evictions.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.

Rachel Haakana

rachelhaakana@gmail.com

165 McKnight Road North Apt 204

Saint Paul , Minnesota 55119

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: Not A Fan - End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:41:01 AM

Please add to public records.

From: Michael Walker <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2026 9:31 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Not A Fan - End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hey Mayor Her,

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

This plan will be disastrous for the hundreds of our community members who are encampment residents. They will have nowhere else to go. Shelters throughout the Metro are dangerous, decrepit, under resourced, at capacity, and unaccommodating to special needs, while long-term and supportive housing options that are accessible to our most vulnerable neighbors have years long waits.

Past evictions have increased overdoses and caused the brutal destruction of countless personal belongings, including identity cards and other vital documents — mandatory for accessing stabilization resources. The results of eviction are violent destabilization and shuffling of tired and distressed lives from one place to another -- drawing out cycles of homelessness. The planned evictions will push our unhoused neighbors much deeper into instability.

Encampments offer a stable place for people to access resources in times of great need. They are homes for people who the system has tossed aside. Marginalized people from all walks of life seek shelter in the encampments, for example, youth, queer folks, veterans, disabled people, immigrants, and Black and Indigenous people of color. Systematic forms of oppression make stable housing a privilege and not a right like it should be, leaving encampments as the only option many marginalized people have left.

After Metro Surge, some of our most vulnerable community members have sought refuge in the city's encampments. Community members whose lives have been disrupted by ICE

turn to the encampments after losing their housing and livelihoods. This problem isn't new — people harmed by the carcel system have long since had to seek shelter in encampments. To evict people now is inhumane and a slap in the face to months of organizing to protect our immigrant communities and years of work towards abolition.

People deserve to live in dignity. Encampments are supported by the tireless work of neighbors volunteering their time and resources. The city needs to step up and instead of evicting our unhoused neighbors, provide the resources encampment residents need to thrive and live safely. Every Saint Paul resident, whether they live in an encampment or not, deserves access to basic services like clean drinking water, and more than anything, a place they can call home without the risk of destabilizing evictions.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.

Michael Walker

michaelcwalker7@protonmail.com

694 6th St E

St Paul, Minnesota 55106

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:42:12 AM

Please add to public records.

From: Katie Heilman <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:25 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hi,

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

This plan will be disastrous for the hundreds of our community members who are encampment residents. They will have nowhere else to go. Shelters throughout the Metro are dangerous, decrepit, under resourced, at capacity, and unaccommodating to special needs, while long-term and supportive housing options that are accessible to our most vulnerable neighbors have years long waits.

Past evictions have increased overdoses and caused the brutal destruction of countless personal belongings, including identity cards and other vital documents — mandatory for accessing stabilization resources. The results of eviction are violent destabilization and shuffling of tired and distressed lives from one place to another -- drawing out cycles of homelessness. The planned evictions will push our unhoused neighbors much deeper into instability.

Encampments offer a stable place for people to access resources in times of great need. They are homes for people who the system has tossed aside. Marginalized people from all walks of life seek shelter in the encampments, for example, youth, queer folks, veterans, disabled people, immigrants, and Black and Indigenous people of color. Systematic forms of oppression make stable housing a privilege and not a right like it should be, leaving encampments as the only option many marginalized people have left.

After Metro Surge, some of our most vulnerable community members have sought refuge in the city's encampments. Community members whose lives have been disrupted by ICE

turn to the encampments after losing their housing and livelihoods. This problem isn't new — people harmed by the carcel system have long since had to seek shelter in encampments. To evict people now is inhumane and a slap in the face to months of organizing to protect our immigrant communities and years of work towards abolition.

People deserve to live in dignity. Encampments are supported by the tireless work of neighbors volunteering their time and resources. The city needs to step up and instead of evicting our unhoused neighbors, provide the resources encampment residents need to thrive and live safely. Every Saint Paul resident, whether they live in an encampment or not, deserves access to basic services like clean drinking water, and more than anything, a place they can call home without the risk of destabilizing evictions.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.

Katie Heilman

kaheil17@gmail.com

1609 4th St E

St. Paul, Minnesota 55106

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:42:58 AM

Please add to public records.

From: John Slade <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 6:28 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hi,

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

This plan will be disastrous for the hundreds of our community members who are encampment residents. They will have nowhere else to go. Shelters throughout the Metro are dangerous, decrepit, under resourced, at capacity, and unaccommodating to special needs, while long-term and supportive housing options that are accessible to our most vulnerable neighbors have years long waits.

Past evictions have increased overdoses and caused the brutal destruction of countless personal belongings, including identity cards and other vital documents — mandatory for accessing stabilization resources. The results of eviction are violent destabilization and shuffling of tired and distressed lives from one place to another -- drawing out cycles of homelessness. The planned evictions will push our unhoused neighbors much deeper into instability.

Encampments offer a stable place for people to access resources in times of great need. They are homes for people who the system has tossed aside. Marginalized people from all walks of life seek shelter in the encampments, for example, youth, queer folks, veterans, disabled people, immigrants, and Black and Indigenous people of color. Systematic forms of oppression make stable housing a privilege and not a right like it should be, leaving encampments as the only option many marginalized people have left.

After Metro Surge, some of our most vulnerable community members have sought refuge in the city's encampments. Community members whose lives have been disrupted by ICE

turn to the encampments after losing their housing and livelihoods. This problem isn't new — people harmed by the carcel system have long since had to seek shelter in encampments. To evict people now is inhumane and a slap in the face to months of organizing to protect our immigrant communities and years of work towards abolition.

People deserve to live in dignity. Encampments are supported by the tireless work of neighbors volunteering their time and resources. The city needs to step up and instead of evicting our unhoused neighbors, provide the resources encampment residents need to thrive and live safely. Every Saint Paul resident, whether they live in an encampment or not, deserves access to basic services like clean drinking water, and more than anything, a place they can call home without the risk of destabilizing evictions.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.

John Slade

john.jarvis.slade@gmail.com

3 Linder Court

St. Paul, Minnesota 55106

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: End Encampment Evictions Now
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:43:48 AM

Please add to public records.

From: Kat T <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 10:41 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: End Encampment Evictions Now

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

Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson,

Hi,

The mayor's office announced that all three major encampments in Saint Paul will be evicted, starting with the Pig's Eye Park (aka Fish Hatchery) encampment by an August 5th deadline.

This plan will be disastrous for the hundreds of our community members who are encampment residents. They will have nowhere else to go. Shelters throughout the Metro are dangerous, decrepit, under resourced, at capacity, and unaccommodating to special needs, while long-term and supportive housing options that are accessible to our most vulnerable neighbors have years long waits.

Past evictions have increased overdoses and caused the brutal destruction of countless personal belongings, including identity cards and other vital documents — mandatory for accessing stabilization resources. The results of eviction are violent destabilization and shuffling of tired and distressed lives from one place to another -- drawing out cycles of homelessness. The planned evictions will push our unhoused neighbors much deeper into instability.

Encampments offer a stable place for people to access resources in times of great need. They are homes for people who the system has tossed aside. Marginalized people from all walks of life seek shelter in the encampments, for example, youth, queer folks, veterans, disabled people, immigrants, and Black and Indigenous people of color. Systematic forms of oppression make stable housing a privilege and not a right like it should be, leaving encampments as the only option many marginalized people have left.

After Metro Surge, some of our most vulnerable community members have sought refuge in the city's encampments. Community members whose lives have been disrupted by ICE

turn to the encampments after losing their housing and livelihoods. This problem isn't new — people harmed by the carcel system have long since had to seek shelter in encampments. To evict people now is inhumane and a slap in the face to months of organizing to protect our immigrant communities and years of work towards abolition.

People deserve to live in dignity. Encampments are supported by the tireless work of neighbors volunteering their time and resources. The city needs to step up and instead of evicting our unhoused neighbors, provide the resources encampment residents need to thrive and live safely. Every Saint Paul resident, whether they live in an encampment or not, deserves access to basic services like clean drinking water, and more than anything, a place they can call home without the risk of destabilizing evictions.

We therefore demand that you publicly commit to the following:

- An eviction moratorium for all encampments in Saint Paul.
- Increased resources & infrastructure for encampments: additional porta-potties, water spigots, mail delivery, and the freedom to build structures.
- Increased investment in long-term housing options such as the expansion of public housing and social services to ease the financial strains that cause people to become homeless.

Kat T

kt.katrinatucker@gmail.com

1276 Wilson Ave

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106

Dear City of st. Paul,

Pigseye Park in my decolonized mind is the perfect site for an encampment. The city could choose to lean into the history which is already embedded in the land. Give people the human right and the opportunity to choose their lifestyle with purpose.

Pierre Parrant Pigseye has been uplifted in St. Paul's history as "the cool man" who started our city. **"Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant arrived near Fort Snelling (Bdote) in 1832. His nickname reflected his unusual appearance caused by being blind in one eye. He also had a criminal history and made his living selling moonshine to the soldiers and settlers."**

The real story is the Dakota Women who were tending gardens (farming) raising children (birthing at the Bdote) storytelling (teaching), feeding (cooking) Creating (entrepreneurship) Building community supported by their husbands, the respected Matriarchs of the family

But this narrative has been erased.

If St. Paul asked Native women who are still here about what to do with this encampment my educated guess is that they would say;

Lean into this encampment space and create something beautiful for the people who live on the land. Help them to do this. Give them purpose to garden, learn and become stewards of the River. Welcome them with open arms. Bring services to them set them up in a good way. Let them have their pets, give them shelter. Help them curate their spaces. Give the people who want to help the opportunity to donate money and even help the people at Pigseye build their own small shelters.

Our city could be an example in the world of a city that leans into its Dakota past and presents to the world **Wodakota**.

Make a treaty with the people who choose to take on the lifestyle of living outside; give them resources to succeed on their terms. And then honor that treaty.

Wodakota Living in harmony with each other is our real history!

I learn all this from

Marlena Myles (Spirit Lake Dakota) We Are on Dakota Land maps and augmented reality outdoor exhibits. Internationally honored for her work.

Tara Perron, Blue Hummingbird Woman, relative to Azayamankawin Of St. Paul (see incredible history) (Business owner, children's book author, poet, singer, plant medicine woman, cook, gardener, mother and wife, consultant

Fern Renville, storyteller, playwright, theater director, consultant, Nettle basket weaver, teacher, gardener, wife, mother

We can do better. We are ready because of our Dakota history embedded in the land. Because of our City's deep connection to each other that shone during Metro Surge.

Thank you for listening,
Katie Clements Tuma

From: [Janie Vang](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure plan
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 2:16:45 PM

Greg,

Councilmember Kim wants me to pass this along so you can add this to the public comments. Are we too late for that?

Thanks!

Janie

From: Hwa Jeong Kim <HwaJeong.Kim@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Janie Vang <janie.vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: FW: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure plan

Can you make sure this gets added to the public comment?

From: Ariel Begley <arielbegley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 9:04 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Public Comment Opposing the Mayor's Encampment Closure plan

Some people who received this message don't often get email from arielbegley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

As a resident of Ward 5, I'm asking you to publicly support **a two-year pause on the planned encampment closures**. Please urge the mayor to pause the closures for two years while Saint Paul improves conditions at existing camps, expands housing and shelter and builds a public-private coalition with encampment residents, Ramsey County, healthcare providers, outreach teams, faith communities, neighborhood organizations, and mutual-aid groups. Success should be measured by how many people move into stable housing – not by how quickly encampments disappear.

Shelters are full and accessible housing options are extremely limited. Everyone agrees encampments are not a long-term answer, but to forcibly displace these communities while knowing there is nowhere for them to go is a reckless, heartless, and ineffective path forward.

Sweeps like this do not help get folks off the street and into housing. Instead, it actually disrupts the path towards housing many of these folks are already working towards. It means service providers don't have a reliable place to go to reach the community they serve. It means whatever slice of stability, community, and home they have found there will be gone.

We know that a lack of supportive relationships is a leading cause of homelessness and self harm. This uncoordinated approach to clearing out and criminalizing these spaces will only serve to make the homelessness crisis worse. These folks deserve better than to be kicked while they are down and forcibly pushed out of community with each other and further into isolation. We know public health research shows forced displacement disrupts healthcare, housing navigation, and trusted relationships while increasing the risks of overdose, illness, and death.

I'm so very proud to be a Minnesotan and I have seen how our community can come together to support each other. We can do better. Let's take the time to collaborate and build the structures and supports we need to support our neighbors in crisis. **Please use your voice to urge the mayor to pause encampment closures for two years to work with encampment residents, Ramsey County, public health experts, healthcare providers, outreach teams, faith communities, and community partners to build a coordinated housing-centered response.** Thank you!

Best,

Ariel Begley
She/Her/Hers
605-300-0093

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: URGENT: Public Concern
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 1:52:41 PM

Please add to public records.

From: Rachel Peterson <rachelpsformal@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 8:56 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: URGENT: Public Concern

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rachelpsformal@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Councilmember Johnson,

I have had the wonderful opportunity to call Saint Paul home for the past 7 years. Saint Paul is where I had the wonderful opportunity to receive my undergraduate education and where I have chosen to call home since. As a class of 2023 Hamline graduate and current Saint Paul resident, I am reaching out with a matter of public concern.

I am disheartened to see that the governing bodies of Saint Paul are actively destroying a sense of community built by my unhoused neighbors in Pig's Eye Park. Due to Hamline's Methodist origins, the John Wesley quote "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can" was imparted on my classmates and I deeply. I am deeply disappointed to see that it is evidently untrue that those ideologies are shared amongst the current Saint Paul administration. When asked about the administration's plans to remove the residents who call Pig Eye Park home, there have been no forthright or actionable plans to help our neighbors. I have yet to know what agencies or nonprofits specifically are working with this administration to ensure folks who want stable housing receive it. I have not seen a budget breakdown detailing what this removal will be costing taxpayers. I have yet to see what resources specifically this administration will be providing to relieve pressures that result in homelessness to ensure this inhumane treatment of our neighbors is not repeated in the future. We have seen in Minneapolis that the cost to destroy an encampment is roughly \$100,000. Certainly the city is resourceful enough to see other ways to pour those funds into uplifting the community.

While admiring the city's response to 'Operation Metro Surge', I find it remiss that it is unable to see the effects that these immigration sweeps have had on the underlying causes of homelessness.

I'd like to note your commitment to the city you call home. Pig's Eye Park is located in your Ward and as such the residents are your constituents. I'd also like to note the remarkable accomplishment of being the first woman, first person of color, and currently the youngest person elected to represent Ward 7. I find it concerning that you would so willingly mar and tarnish your accomplishments and reputation while the community members you serve speak out against the treatment of our neighbors. They deserve every bit of dignity you or I do, and yet I am seeing them treated without basic decency.

I hope to hear from you regarding the concerns I have raised, as well as what steps the City Council plans to take to listen to the community they serve.

-Rachel Peterson

From: [Silver Moran-Stewart](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you!
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 1:58:36 PM

Please add to public records.

From: Grace Tangjerd Schmitt <grace.tangjerdshmitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 11:36 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Thank you!

Some people who received this message don't often get email from grace.tangjerdshmitt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Good Morning, Councilmember Johnson:

Thank you for supporting the effort to close the homeless encampments and promoting community conversation about it. It exemplifies good leadership!

Kind regards,
Grace Tangjerd Schmitt
1172 South Winthrop St.
St. Paul, MN 55119

From: [John Slade](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [Nick Stumo-Langer](#); [Cedrick Baker](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#); [Rebecca Noecker](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#); [Molly Coleman](#); [Hwa Jeong Kim](#); [Nelsie Yang](#); [Cheniqua Johnson](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Resolution of the District 1 Community Council / Southeast Community Organization regarding camp closures
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 12:45:11 PM
Attachments: [Southeast Community Organization D1 request for camp closure moratorium FINAL.pdf](#)
[Southeast Community Organization D1 request for camp closure moratorium FINAL.docx](#)

The board of the Southeast Community Council unanimously passed the following resolution last night. We are calling on the Mayor and City Council to impose at least a 90 day moratorium on camp closures and begin a process, centering camp resident voice, to discuss homeless camp policy in the City.

For further information, contact Executive Director Ianni Houmas, 651-210-1936

Southeast Community Organization
(SECO, District One)
2105 ½ Old Hudson Road
St. Paul, MN 55119

FINAL – For Public Release – More info contact Ianni Houmas, SECO ED 651-210-1936
Date: 7/22/26

The board of the Southeast Community Organization request at least a 90 day moratorium on closure of homeless encampments in St. Paul.

We are the district council that represents the Pigs Eye/Fish Hatchery Road encampment. Our communication with residents of the camp indicate they want more sanitation, water, and services. They do not want the camp to be closed, and certainly not on August 5th. The nearly 200 encampment residents are district residents that must be included in these discussions.

The plan reported in the Pioneer Press and discussed at our July 13 th Housing Forum for the Pigs Eye camp to be evicted on August 5 th is inadequate. We therefore request a 90 day moratorium until October 15 th on all clearance actions against encampments in the City.

We also request the complete transition plan, including services, timelines, identified responsible departments and partners.

Specifically, we request

- A. Publication of the complete transition plan.
- B. Data and metrics that involved the August 5 th closure date.
- C. Public reporting of available shelter and housing capacity.
- D. Documentation of resident engagement and feedback.
- E. A plan for storage and retrieval of personal belongings.
- F. Clear metrics for success.
- G. A stakeholder process regarding future encampment policy.

While we have immediate concerns for the humanitarian needs of the camp residents, we also call for a robust discussion with all stakeholders on what the City of St. Paul's policy regarding homeless encampments should be. Our economic situation has produced unhoused

people and their quality of life should be increased, not decreased, by public action.

Finally, we heard on July 13 th that the City does not currently have enough identified shelter beds for all the camp residents. Camp clearance should not proceed when shelter capacity is insufficient or unverified.

SECO is committed to working collaboratively with the City, service providers, advocacy groups, and residents toward a humane, sustainable solution.

Signed, the Southeast Community Organization Board of Directors

John Slade, President



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Tammi Westberg](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Pig's Eye encampment eviction
Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 1:52:10 PM

[You don't often get email from tammiwestberg@jaynedoe.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am against the Pig's Eye encampment eviction scheduled for 8/5/26. The money should be used toward resources, shelter, medical care and support for encampment residents, not to displace and harm them. Evictions and encampment sweeps make an already susceptible population even more vulnerable to incarceration, institutionalization and trafficking by ICE/federal agencies. These sweeps make dispersing resources and medical care during crises such as heat waves and bad air quality days even more dangerous to residents and their livelihoods.

I urge Mayor Her, Saint Paul City Council, and collaborating agencies to halt the evictions and to meet directly with encampment residents, local organizations and public health experts to develop and transparently share a plan moving forward that centers the health and safety of ALL constituents. Public servants must be held accountable by the community and the current planned eviction/sweep on 8/5 is dangerous and harmful.

Tammi Westberg
Saint Paul

From: [Sarah Kuntz](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Stop the sweeps!
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:06:44 AM

You don't often get email from sarahlwkuntz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello all- I am writing to express the following...

I AM AGAINST THE PIGS EYE ENCAMPMENT EVICTION ON 8/5. THE MONEY SHOULD BE USED TOWARD RESOURCES, SHELTER, MEDICAL CARE, AND SUPPORT FOR ENCAMPMENT RESIDENTS, NOT TO DISPLACE AND HARM THEM. EVICTIONS AND ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS MAKE AN ALREADY VULNERABLE POPULATION EVEN MORE VULNERABLE TO INCARCERATION, INSTITUTIONALIZATION, AND TRAFFICKING BY ICE/FEDERAL AGENCIES. THESE SWEEPS MAKE DISPERSING RESOURCES AND MEDICAL CARE DURING CRISES SUCH AS HEAT WAVES AND BAD AIR QUALITY DAYS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS TO RESIDENTS AND THEIR LIVELIHOODS. I URGE MAYOR HER, SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL, AND COLLABORATING AGENCIES TO HALT THE EVICTIONS AND TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH ENCAMPMENT RESIDENTS, LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS TO DEVELOP AND TRANSPARENTLY SHARE A PLAN MOVING FORWARD THAT CENTERS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL CONSTITUENTS. PUBLIC SERVANTS MUST BE ACCOUNTABLE TO CONSTITUENTS- AND THE CURRENT PLANNED EVICTION/SWEEP ON 8/5 IS DANGEROUS, HARMFUL, AND NOT WITHIN BEST PRACTICES.

Kind Regards-



“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.” — Angela Davis

From: [Jennifer Horton](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Homeless Encampment Evictions
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:58:55 AM

You don't often get email from jendyruth@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am against the Pigs Eye encampment eviction planned for 8/5. Eviction does not aid our most vulnerable neighbors, nor does it do anything to address the root cause of homelessness. Eviction is a quick fix that makes providing resources, shelter, medical care, and support to encampment residents much more difficult, endangering encampment residents during heat waves and poor air quality days.

I urge the mayor and city council to meet with encampment residents, local organizations, and public health officials to develop a plan that addresses the root cause and creates a solution that works in the best interest of all St Paul residents. Eviction simply moves the problem to a new location and harms everyone in the long term. I expect better of you.

Jennifer Horton

From: [Katrina Fingerson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Please Do NOT Move Forward with the Pigs Eye Encampment Eviction Sweep
Date: Saturday, July 25, 2026 7:13:59 AM

You don't often get email from kfigerson25@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Her and Saint Paul City Council,

I am a resident of Saint Paul in zipcode 55102. I am writing to you all because I am against the Pigs Eye Encampment Eviction Sweep currently scheduled for 08/05/26. The money you have allocated for this violent act could and should be offered for resources, shelter, medical care, and ongoing support for the vulnerable residents of the encampment, our neighbors. The current plan for eviction would harm and displace our neighbors unjustly. Evictions and encampment sweeps make an already vulnerable population even more vulnerable to violence, death, incarceration, institutionalization, and trafficking by ICE/Federal Agencies. These sweeps make dispersing resources and medical care during current crises such as heat waves and bad air quality days even more dangerous to the residents of the encampment and their livelihoods. I urge Mayor Her, the Saint Paul City Council, and collaborating agencies to halt the evictions and to meet directly with encampment residents, local organizations, and public health experts to develop and transparently share a plan moving forward that centers the health, dignity, and safety of all constituents. You all, as Public Servants, must be accountable to constituents and the currently planned eviction/sweep scheduled for 08/05/26 is dangerous, harmful, and not within best practices.

Please support, respect, and uphold the dignity of ALL of your constituents and neighbors.

Thank you,
Katrina Fingerson



RECEIVED
AUG 03 2026
CITY CLERK

ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

July 30, 2026

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I am writing to you from St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church in the Summit-University neighborhood of Saint Paul, a pillar of this community for 143 years. As a member of this community who is deeply concerned about matters related to homelessness and policy surrounding that issue, I write to urge you to pause the sweeps of the various homeless encampments situated in St. Paul until greater supports have been put in place to provide services, housing, and other resources to the residents of those encampments.

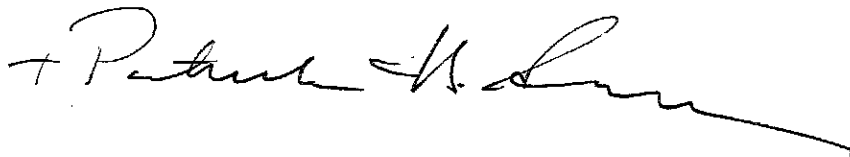
As I write to you, there are 1400 people on the waiting list in Ramsey County for Permanent Supportive Housing, with over 2600 on the coordinated entry point list for Long-Term Housing. I am aware that the City of St. Paul has transferred 1 million dollars to Ramsey County to provide some mitigation for this, but this number – gracious as it is – provides for only 49 new shelter beds, far short of the numbers cited above. While I understand that encampments pose significant challenges to this community are not a long-term solution, I urge you to “pause” this action until greater efforts have been made to meet the needs of the populations who will be impacted by them.

Homeless policy is a complex intersection of economic hardship, mental health, addiction services, systemic prejudices, and a host of other extenuating factors that make any one solution extremely difficult and likely to, on their own, fail. Simply removing encampments does little to solve these complex challenges in our community, and as a person of faith, I urge you to make every effort to see that we have the resources in place to meet these needs before any action is taken. 49 new beds, sadly, just doesn't cut it, and is simply a band-aid on a larger problem.

Continued...

You remain in my prayers as you seek to balance policy with compassion and strategy with mercy.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick H. Shebeck", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Shebeck

Senior Pastor

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

www.stpaulref.org

ST. PAUL-REFORMATION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
100 OXFORD STREET NORTH
SAINT PAUL, MN 55104



SAINT PAUL MN 550
30 JUL 2026 PM 6 L

FIRST-CLASS



US POSTAGE
IMPTTNEY BOWES

ZIP 55104
02 7H
0006107173
JUL 30 2026

\$ 000.780

Saint Paul City Council
Suite 310, City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

55102-161565



From: [Justin Lewandowski](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [chiefclerk@ramseycounty.us](#); [*CI-StPaul_Mayor](#); [Anika Bowie](#); [Rebecca Noecker](#); [Saura Jost](#); [Molly Coleman](#); [Hwa Jeong Kim](#); [Nelsie Yang](#); [Cheniqua Johnson](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward6](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward7](#); [maryjo.mcquire@ramseycounty.us](#); [rafael.e.ortega@ramseycounty.us](#); [rena.moran@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [maichong.xiong@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [kelly.miller@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [tara.jebenssingh@co.ramsey.mn.us](#); [garrison.mcmurtrey@co.ramsey.mn.us](#)
Cc: [josie.grove@startribune.com](#); [Frederick Melo](#); [mcclure50449@aol.com](#); [fox9news@fox.com](#); [corin.hoggard@fox.com](#); [kjmitche@l@cs.com](#); [dsschuman@cs.com](#); [jkolls@kstp.com](#); [syoo@kare11.com](#); [Susan.Du@startribune.com](#)
Subject: Interfaith Call to Pause and Plan: Give Our Community 60 Days
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 9:05:24 AM
Attachments: [An Interfaith Call to Pause and Plan \(1\).pdf](#)

You don't often get email from justinmichael.mn@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Councilmembers and Commissioners,

I am writing alongside **93 other clergy, faith leaders, congregation members, and people of faith representing more than 25 faith communities and at least eight distinct religious traditions** to ask you to publicly call for a 60-day pause on the planned closures of the Fish Hatch, Shepard Road, and Kmart encampments.

Our *Interfaith Call to Pause and Plan* begins with a shared conviction: every person possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth. We are not asking elected leaders to accept encampments as a permanent solution. We are asking that people not be displaced without safe shelter, stable housing, and a coordinated transition plan in place.

Through calls with Ramsey County, public testimony, and conversations with City and County staff, contracted service providers, frontline outreach workers, and others directly involved in this response, we have repeatedly heard how disjointed, rushed, and dangerous this process has been. It is deeply concerning that so many people working both behind the scenes and on the front lines believe this plan was put together too quickly and without the coordination necessary to protect the people most affected.

In a recent Axios article, Mayor Kaohly Her is quoted asking during a heated moment on a call: **“Where the hell have we been? Why haven’t we brought these 30-day, 60-day solutions years ago?”**

The answer is that much of this work has been happening for years—through Ramsey County, contracted providers, frontline outreach workers, healthcare partners, mutual-aid networks, faith communities, and encampment residents themselves. What has been missing is not effort. It has been enough time, capacity, resources, and coordination to bring that work together at the scale this moment requires.

In 60 days, we could make meaningful progress on work everyone already agrees must happen. Ramsey County could continue expanding shelter capacity beyond the first 49 additional beds already contracted. Housing case management could continue scaling up. Outreach teams would have more time to identify medically vulnerable residents, complete Coordinated Entry assessments, replace identification documents, secure benefits, and build the trust necessary to help more people accept appropriate placements.

That time would also allow resident-led mutual-aid networks and faith communities to work

alongside County staff and service providers in a more coordinated way. We could help source cell phones so people remain connected to outreach workers, healthcare providers, housing resources, family members, and the most important relationships in their lives. We could also help provide food, clothing, hygiene supplies, transportation, and other essentials while people move through an already unstable and overburdened system.

Sixty days would not solve homelessness. It would give the people already doing this work a realistic opportunity to reduce harm, preserve trusted relationships, and move more residents toward safety before the encampments are closed.

Faith communities are also ready to step forward. The attached letter is signed by bishops, pastors, rabbis, an imam, chaplains, reverends, spiritual directors, ministry leaders, and congregation members from across Saint Paul and the surrounding area. Our faith communities have volunteers, relationships, resources, and physical spaces that could support this work. But meaningful coordination cannot be created in a matter of days, and community care and mutual aid cannot replace the responsibilities of government.

The larger context also matters. Since Election Day in 2024, through the extraordinarily difficult year of 2025, Operation Metro Surge, and its continuing consequences, our communities and local governments have been operating under sustained pressure from federal policy changes and funding cuts. Ramsey County has said publicly that it cannot simply absorb the effects of Medicaid and SNAP cuts. The County is already under immense strain.

Ramsey County is Minnesota's second-most-populous county while occupying the state's smallest geographic area. Saint Paul also carries a substantial amount of tax-exempt property, further limiting the local revenue available to meet the needs of our population. This is not simply a Saint Paul problem. It is a regional and statewide crisis requiring serious, long-term coordination with the Legislature, neighboring counties, service providers, healthcare systems, faith communities, philanthropy, businesses, mutual-aid networks, and residents themselves.

But in this immediate moment, giving the County, providers, residents, and community only 28 days was negligent.

The mayor may be the person with direct authority to delay these closures, but that does not absolve City Council Members or County Commissioners of their responsibility to ask publicly and frankly for more time. Silence becomes acceptance. An extension will not happen unless elected leaders demand it.

A 60-day extension would not solve homelessness. It would give us time to reduce harm, expand capacity, coordinate available resources, preserve trusted relationships, and give more people a realistic opportunity to reach safer and more stable outcomes before these encampments are closed.

As our interfaith letter states, success should not be measured by how quickly tents disappear, but by how many people reach safety, stability, and a permanent home.

You have a duty to ask for that time.

Sincerely,

Justin Lewandowski

Member, Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway

Executive Director, Open Hands Midway

From: [Brenda](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public Hearing Comment — Homeless Encampments (Supplemental Statement)
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 8:39:14 AM

You don't often get email from solis.k.brenda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

There are also statistics that show this kind of approach works. It can lead to less crime, fewer new addictions, less disease associated with drug use, and better public safety. Instead of relying mainly on private agencies to coordinate care, I believe the county should take the lead. That would improve accountability and could also reduce fraud. This is only a short list of the benefits, but I believe it is a strong one.

From: [Brenda](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Homeless Encampment
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 6:40:31 AM

You don't often get email from solis.k.brenda@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To: Saint Paul City Council
Re: Public hearing on homeless encampments
Date: August 4, 2026
From: Brenda Solis
Contact: brenda.k.solis@gmail.com

Dear Council Members,

I am writing as someone who has personally experienced homelessness and addiction recovery. I have also watched the rise in homelessness over the past several years, and I believe the fentanyl epidemic has played a major role in what we are seeing now. In my view, this is a core issue that must be addressed directly if we want real solutions.

One wise consideration would be to place methadone and suboxone services at or near the Dorothy Day Center. Many of these services are currently located in suburban areas or in places that are not easily reachable by bus. That creates a major barrier for the very people who most need them. If treatment were placed in a more accessible and visible location, it would give people a real alternative that meets them where they are.

I also believe this would reduce waste of county funds on solutions that are not truly solving the problem. If services are too far away or too difficult to access, then they are not effective for the people they are intended to help. We need to invest in practical solutions that are easy to reach and designed around the reality of addiction and homelessness.

As someone in recovery and a former homeless addict for most of my adult life, I know how difficult it is to navigate shelter systems and recovery paths. The options that exist now often do not speak the language of the people they are trying to serve. We need more compassionate, accessible, and realistic pathways to recovery.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,
Brenda Solis

From: [David Wangaard](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: FW: Homeless Encampments
Date: Monday, August 3, 2026 7:39:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

From: David Wangaard
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 7:34 AM
To: 'CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn' <CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn>
Subject: Homeless Encampments

Dear City Council,

My name is Rev.David Wangard. I live in ward 5 and am a member of St.Paul Reformation Lutheran Church. Each Sunday our service ends with the admonition, “go in peace and serve the Lord.” Serving the Lord is to strive for justice, work for peace, care for the hungry and poor and to love our neighbor. Our city has always done its best to serve our Lord. This is why I am concerned that we continue to care for our homeless neighbors as best as we can and not just sweep them away as so many other cities have done. What could we do to truly love our homeless neighbors to provide them the dignity and respect they deserve? I wish you well as you discern this answer.

Go in peace and serve the Lord,
Rev. David Wangaard

David Wangaard

Senior Advisor, Church Relations | David.Wangaard@globalrefuge.org | (443) 396-7861

Global Refuge

700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 | www.globalrefuge.org

CFC Charity #78594

[Support the Long Welcome](#)



Formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. New name, same mission. Welcoming newcomers since 1939.

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential and should not be disclosed under penalty of law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please reply immediately by e-mail or contact the sender at (443) 396-7861 to receive instructions on deleting or destroying it.

From: [Amethyst O'Connell](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: PH 26-14 Written Comment
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2026 2:56:12 PM

You don't often get email from oconnellamethyst@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Amethyst O'Connell, I am an Administrative Assistant at Gallery Tower Condominiums who operates the front desk on Saturdays, and I am submitting a written comment towards the Mayor's Encampment Cleaning Plan, as I will be unable to attend due to my day job. What I am writing today is on my own behalf and does not represent those at Cedar Management or my other employers opinions.

Gallery Tower Condominiums is frequently in what I would consider the war zone of the housing crisis. Sharing a building with a public parking garage, a blighted office park, and the Church of Scientology, and being within walking distance of M Health Fairview Bethesda Hospital, United Hospital, the Social Security Administration, the Green Line, and most notably Catholic Charities Dorothy Day center, which often does not have enough resources to deal with the scope, scale, and volume of the housing crisis in St. Paul, and so unhoused people spill out onto the streets in a pattern radiating from both the center and the hospital. There are no public bathrooms in the area, there isn't a fund for businesses to be able to clean up after people who are needing to use a public bathroom as a needle site, public shower, and restroom, so every business in the area has shuttered it's bathroom doors. The stench of pee, thus, emanates from the sidewalk near Gallery Tower, where a shaded alcove owned by the abandoned office park, is used as a bathroom, by both the unhoused, and the unfortunate uninformed suburban tourist alike.

First of all, I don't think we can really address the housing crisis in St. Paul without partnering with the school board. A lot of the work to house people in the city involves getting the unhoused jobs that are high quality enough to support rent. This is not a plan that, bluntly speaking, works, in the age of AI, in a zip code, where both the public Elementary, Maxfield Magnet and public Middle School, Hidden River have a 1/10 and a 3/10 respectively. How exactly are we expecting people to get jobs, in the age of AI where a computer is sweeping away the work of most office workers, when we don't even have quality schools that can teach kids to read. Kids who can't read become adults who can't read, and in the age of AI, raising the threshold of employability considerably, being able to read is a bare minimum for any sort of living wage employment.

Second, I am concerned that the Mayor's concepts of a plan, means that condo workers and other desk staff will be the ones actually fronting the burden of the housing crisis. Contrary to popular belief, an angel does not come down from on high, and teach people how to navigate the complicated bureaucracy of the homelessness industrial complex the moment they do not have a home anymore, in fact these people who are unhoused are usually the least equipped to be able to navigate the systems that are supposed to get people out of homelessness. While we like to think that this educational burden falls upon Social Workers, a lot of this burden falls on Condo Workers and other desk staff, since the first thing that desperate people without homes tend to try to do, is break into a condo rec room and use it as a make shift shelter, and the labor of figuring out if the person who broke into your condo, or is using your condo's vestibule as a nap room, is a threat, or just a brand new baby homeless person who doesn't

know how to navigate city services, because what normal person would just know that. While the encampments are ugly, you know what they aren't? In your condo. In your apartment. My worry as a condo worker is that with nowhere to go, with there still not being enough shelter space, and with AI taking more and more jobs, that it's going to become Condo Worker's problem. Right now, there isn't really an educational program for Condo Workers to be the city's make shift social workers to begin with, we learn this stuff on the job, and from each other, informally. I would at least like this plan to include resources for condo workers to be able to route people to services, similar to the resources created to support jailhouse lawyers.

Third, I am concerned that this plan is too narrowly regionally specific, and doesn't include enough collaboration with the mayors of nearby cities. This includes the obvious ones, Minneapolis, Roseville, Falcon Heights, but also, as a regular transit commuter, I have often heard that social workers in Chicago have been giving unhoused people there one way bus tickets to Minneapolis, a practice that needs to be stopped, as these people very quickly realize that, detached from their support structure and way of life in Chicago, and moving to the Twin Cities Metro, which while being far more generous than Chicago on paper, often requires of the unhoused to be able to navigate bureaucratic systems to receive support, rather than being able to support themselves through odd jobs and panhandling. The Twin Cities metro is far more class segregated than Chicago, far more cashless, and far less friendly to outsiders. A person panhandling on a bus in Chicago might get \$100 from a software developer also riding the bus in Chicago. In the Twin Cities, it is far less common for the upper middle class and wealthy to interact with poor people, a person panhandling on a bus in St. Paul will not get any money, because the people riding that bus will also be poor, and also not have money. The rich do not ask for help from poor people in the same way they do in Chicago, they don't put help wanted signs in a library for their au pair, or lawn mower, those types of help jobs generally go to the children of other rich people in the Twin Cities to build character rather than to poor people. The climate here is also horrible. So, the people who I have met who have taken a ticket from Chicago have all not just regretted it deeply, but experienced severe cultural shock from the experience. A plan to demolish this encampment with nowhere for these people to go is a plan to not only strain social services here in St. Paul, but also in neighboring Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago, and any plan is incomplete without coordinating with the mayors of these places.

Fourth, I do not think that it adequately addresses the growing forces creating homelessness in St. Paul. Right now, a little under half of gen Z is living with their parents. Including myself. We aren't just looking at a homelessness crisis, to us in gen Z, it feels like we are looking at the end of employment itself, and that takes a very different approach than our current approach. It is seeming like AI will be able to do everything, or if not do everything, do what all but the very smartest of people can do, and that takes a very different type of planning, if it can even really be planned for. I am especially seeing a lot of elder homelessness, people who cannot realistically be employed in the current economy because they're 70, or 80, and social security doesn't cover the rent. We need a model of intervention that can function despite the way that the job is becoming obsolete, and that humans themselves are becoming old news.

Fifth, of non-job based homelessness, I think we should be looking into more robust solutions. For foster care youth, if I am almost 30 and still living with my parents, the foster care system in St. Paul should also reflect that economic reality, and continue to place people with foster parents into their 30s, this also goes for LGBT people, for whom the city should look at developing, or supporting existing programs for found families. For domestic violence, someone who is a stay at home parent has a very predictable and very rough path to

employment after domestic violence, and so we should consider creating a citywide insurance fund, predicting the rates of domestic violence, perhaps increasing the fee for a marriage license to fund this insurance, perhaps just raising taxes, and providing funds and programming to stay at home and non-breadwinner parents to be able to reestablish themselves.

Thank you for your time

Amethyst O'Connell

From: [Ed Stuart](#)
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: August 4th Public Hearing Comments
Date: Sunday, August 2, 2026 11:24:10 AM

You don't often get email from edward.l.stuart@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear St. Paul City Council,

My name is Ed Stuart. I have strong ties to St Paul, having lived in Ward 4 until May 2026 for 37 years and a member of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church in Ward 2 for the past 15 years . As a Christian community, we must speak up for the "least of these" and I am writing because we are deeply concerned about those that are homeless. Specifically, I write to urge you to pause the sweeps of the various homeless encampments situated in St. Paul until greater supports have been put in place to provide services those living in the encampments need.

Community is foundational to the church. I am not a big fan of the word encampment. For the residents it is their home, their community that is being upended. Our church community continuously works to grow community in St Paul. We have a ministry that provides overnight rest for women during the winter months. Winter cold in MN can be brutal and to these women, a pallet with linens, blankets and a pillow is nearly regal. And some of these women became members of our community, joining us for worship, then social time, coffee and treats. Not surprisingly, their attendance was short lived. For a few Sundays though, love is spread and community is extended and blessed. "Love your neighbor as yourself" after all is the second greatest commandment.

While I understand that encampments pose significant challenges and are not a long-term solution to homelessness, I urge you to “pause” this action until greater efforts have been made to meet the needs of the populations who will be impacted by them. Simply removing encampments does little to solve these complex challenges in our community, and as a person of faith, I urge you to make every effort to see that we have the resources in place to meet these needs before any action is taken.

"All the law hangs on the two greatest commandments".
Ed Stuart

From: [Jenna Sadjadi](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: FW: On the closing of Pig's Eye Lake
Date: Friday, July 31, 2026 9:51:34 AM

From: James Seemann <seemann@csp.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2026 4:10 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: On the closing of Pig's Eye Lake

Some people who received this message don't often get email from seemann@csp.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Dear Council Members.

Thank you all for holding public hearings on the homeless encampment closings. The speeches and the letters have been very informative, even somewhat reassuring to learn that so many others are as disappointed. This is simply not who we are.

AI Data shows the same: that 84% of Americans believe homelessness is a serious problem. Their politics may differ, but both sides are concerned. Americans are also highly proactive: 47% have donated while 32% have volunteered. Another 49% believe the homeless have fallen into hard times they cannot control, while only 20% blame poor personal choices. Democrat or Republican, the majority, 54%, feel the government spends too little to help those in need.

National statistics do not tell our story. Our own Minnesota culture is even more proactive. I serve The New Freedom Store, a 501, C3 charity, receives donations from over two hundred churches and charitable organizations across the state, all of whom work together because they share the same Christian core values, namely the sanctity of human life. Obama once described the same as "a vast reservoir of goodness." We just call it Minnesota nice. We are, no doubt, more concerned as the rest of the country.

The New Freedom Store is certainly not the only charity that serves the homeless. Good people come from all over to visit Pig's Eye even when the temperature is twenty below. The Breakfast Club arrived on one such Saturday morning to serve a hot meal. One rusty pickup after another delivered firewood: dried, split, and cut. Later on, "Uncle Neddy" drove in from Watertown to serve lunch. The Eggroll Queen served dinner in a food truck.

Other charities include Damascus Way from Rochester, LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) which comes from all over the state. There is also the Saint Paul Outreach Center, to name just a few.

Someone at the hearings mentioned the tragic story of one man who froze to death. No one mentioned the hundreds of people who donated winter coats, blankets, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, and tents in order to keep the rest alive. We have a heart for the poor. We must not ignore that. My hope that city government honors their path. They are civic heroes, community leaders, and the majority of voters too.

The purpose of this letter is just that, dear council. I ask that you take a stand, choose a side, not with the forty six percent who don't care, but with the fifty-four percent (or more) who do, not with the twenty percent who blame the poor, but with the eighty percent who don't. Err toward the side of the forty seven percent, the true heroes, who volunteer either for an organization or just spontaneously show up and almost daily prevent a humanitarian crisis in our own hometown.

Now is the very best time for the council to join in this same cause, change the public conversation, craft a new policy, a new program, a new law, one not mindlessly based on one eviction after another, but one that may even unite the politically divided.

Sweeps and evictions are neither courageous nor humane. They are symptoms of a failed city policy which has gone on for way too long. They cost the taxpayers a lot of money and solve nothing at all.

Take this stand now please while the plight of the homeless is in the news. And besides, it's high time. Take this stand now because the poor cannot wait.

Housing First

A bed in a shelter is very expensive. The County just contributed nearly a million dollars for nearly fifty beds, costing the taxpayers twenty thousand each. The homeless have already told you they don't want to be institutionalized. Can you blame them?

They want a comprehensive plan that includes Permanent Supportive Housing, one that offers a lockable door, personal privacy, even pets, independence, stability, a mail address, and maybe, just maybe, a viable pathway back to a normal life.

Housing First is the plan that does all this. It started in Europe, but migrated to the USA. Saint Cloud adopted a plan, Minneapolis too. Housing First has proven to succeed, even turns tax takers into taxpayers, helping many to get jobs. The mayor has never mentioned this option. She should.

I offer this brief explanation of how it works. The average low-cost efficiency apartment in Saint Paul is between \$800 and \$950 per month. The government pays the bill. Supportive services are provided for those in need, especially battered women, mentally ill, physically handicapped, and those who need rehabilitation. The apartments can be widely dispersed across the city, allowing the residents to be assimilated by the general population. (<https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/look-finlands-housing-first-initiative>)

Housing First may sound expensive, but the mayor has never reported the cost of doing nothing. The National Alliance to End Homelessness shows that the average homeless person costs the government \$35,000 per year in emergency calls, not to mention jail and hospital costs. Look again at the base price for that efficiency apartment. It is less than one third. (<https://endhomelessness.org/>)

There is a Housing First Office right here in Roseville, well worth a phone call. (<https://housingfirstmnfoundation.org/>) Charities such as Avivo offer specific plans, even build units. Most of you probably know they created a small village in Minneapolis. (<https://avivomn.org/avivovillage/>)

Housing First is the most practical and humane solution to the homeless problem. It is what the majority wants, or would want, if they were fully informed. It is the morally right thing to do. We live in a democracy. A democracy must include the needs of all citizens. It is not an exclusive club. It cannot just deem some undesirable and kick them out. If it did, it would not be a democracy at all.

Sweeps and evictions solve nothing. They do not end suffering, nor make people better. They make them worse. And we already know the problem will not go away.

Council Members: I ask you to care for people. Respect the ethic we call Minnesota nice, and the true heroes in our society who turn out in considerable numbers and in all weather, to make Saint Paul a better place, not just for some, but for all. This who we are.

Respectfully yours,

Jim Seemann, Ph.D.

The New Freedom Store