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## **REPEAL THE FORD PLAN. PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS**

### **Neighbors for Livable Saint Paul Launch Petition Drive to force referendum to repeal Ford Site Zoning Ordinance**

(Saint Paul, MN) Neighbors for a Livable Saint Paul, [www.LivableSaintPaul.com](http://www.LivableSaintPaul.com), a non-partisan, non-aligned grassroots group of neighbors, announced today they are beginning a petition drive to secure 2,500 signatures to force a referendum to repeal the Ford Site Zoning Ordinance passed by the Saint Paul City Council on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

According to NLSP spokesperson, Charles Hathaway, the group has until Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> to secure enough signatures to essentially stop any further action on the Ford project until a referendum vote is scheduled on the repeal measure.

*"We've said from the beginning that our efforts to stop the Ford Plan did not end because of the City Council's vote on September 27<sup>th</sup>," said Hathaway. "This has now become a citywide issue in which every neighborhood of Saint Paul stands to lose because of the actions of the City Council and Mayor Chris Coleman and his Administration. We intend to take this issue to voters and force City Hall to finally listen to the voices of opposition to this project."*

Hathaway acknowledge there are significant hurdles the grassroots group of neighbors will have to overcome to secure the signatures in time to meet the November 20<sup>th</sup> deadline but also underscores that successful or not the group intends to continue its citywide efforts to Stop the Ford Plan.

*"We have a tough slog ahead of us in this short period of time," admitted Hathaway. "But, if we are not successful in securing the necessary signatures in time for the Repeal effort we intend to launch another petition drive to prevent the City of St. Paul, the HRA and the Saint Paul Port Authority from using public funds to build this project under the current zoning ordinance."*

NLSP believes that Saint Paul residents in other Wards in St. Paul will support NLSP's efforts once they realize that their own neighborhood projects will suffer because of the massive transfer of public funds to support private developers and Ford Motor Company.

*"Every single neighborhood in St. Paul will suffer the consequences of the City Council's determination to use hundreds of millions of public dollars for the Ford site," explained Hathaway. "It's unclear why the City Council voted as they did. But it never had to be this way, and it shouldn't be this way. Giving public money to Ford Motor Company and private developers at the expense of neighborhoods desperate for funding is wrong, and we intend to stop it."*

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