

Monday, August 28 2017

The Honorable Christopher Tolbert

310-C City Hall 15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

It had been our intention to thank you for your time meeting with us last week (August 23rd) as we hoped to finally understand your position on the proposed Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan.

In that meeting, you repeatedly denied knowing what your position would be, and whether you would act to reduce the building heights, population density and traffic congestion that will result from the current plan.

**Imagine our shock after reading your Sunday OpEd (Pioneer Press, August 27) to learn not only were you being less than candid with us during our meeting with you, but you misled us by stating that you would not take any public position on this matter until you had a chance to listen to your constituents at a Town Hall Meeting you are hosting Tuesday, August 29th.**

Seemingly, you chose to withhold information during the hour we spent together, asking you questions that constituents should have been entitled to have answered.

As a result of your OpEd in which you publicly announced, for the first time, your strong support for the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan, we once again ask you to delay the Council vote until after a new Mayor is sworn into office in January.

Despite the OpEd in which you state an intention to introduce an amendment regarding building heights, there is nothing in that amendment that materially changes the plan.

**All you have really accomplished in your OpEd is two things:**

One, finally, after months of refusal to share with your constituents where you stand on this proposal, you are now on record endorsing the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan – a plan that will devastate our community.

Two, you have unfortunately made it clear that you have misled your constituents regarding where you stood on this issue.

Councilmember Tolbert, it is your right and privilege to form your own opinion on the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan.

It is not, however, your right or privilege to manipulate this process in such a way as to confuse your constituents on your true position on this crucial matter.

**Please reconsider. Once again we call on you to OPPOSE the** Ford **Site Zoning and Public** Realm Master Plan **that could potentially result in:**

* 30,000 more vehicle trips to our neighborhood EACH DAY
* 10,000 more people crammed onto less than 135 acres of land
* Hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize private corporate developers
* Construction of 10+ story buildings near the banks of the Mississippi River
* Massive reductions in recreational space
* An unacceptable deficit of green and park space for current and future residents.

**We also call on your to SUPPORT a delay on any vote by the Saint Paul City Council on the** Ford **Site Zoning and Public** Realm Master Plan.

Sincerely, on behalf of Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul

Charles Hathaway Bruce Hoppe Erich Mische

**CC: Councilmembers Noecker, Prince, Bostrom, Thao, Stark, Brendemoen and Mayor Chris Coleman**

Prepared and Paid for by Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul, PO Box 16058
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