

Klaas Michael, CS24, BMIN

Subject: FW: Blaine City Hall

Thank you mayor Tom Ryan and city council members for letting me speak. My name is Michael Klaas. My wife, 2 boys, and I live at 12551 Lever St NE (not Marmon St like google map shows). We are the first house on Lever St. My wife and I purchased the house she grew up in with 2 acres from her parent's property approximately 6 years ago and lease the surrounding 13 acres to raise our 6 head of black Angus cattle and 25 chickens, honey bees. We both work hard outside of home as well as on the farm. We love where we live and do not want to see our neighborhood destroyed.

There are 8 homes that have frontage property on Lever St with families living in them. Two of which have signed the petition for the road improvements. That is far less than 35%. The majority of the permanent residents of Lever St do not want the road paved, 2 sidewalks, city sewer/water, and certainly do not want to pay for the absorbent assessment amounts. This is a huge burden put upon the families that live on Lever St. You are dealing with peoples lives: veterans, senior citizens, grandparents, children, families, hard working Americans. I strongly feel that when and if our neighborhood gets developed that this road should be put in by the developers and paid for by the developers since they will be profiting from this.

It appears as if the cost of the road improvements have been divided up according to frontage property. This disbursement of costs CANNOT be put upon the homeowner in this manner. The city can only assess how much our property value has increased by such an improvement NOT the actual cost. It is hard to imagine that once the road is paved the value of our house magically increases by \$53k. The city of Blaine needs to provide an approximate market-value analysis of current projects of street improvements in our area with similar footage. Keep in mind that, special assessments that exceed the special benefit is the taking of property without fair compensation and violates both the fourteenth amendment of the United States and the Minnesota Constitution. This is essentially equity stripping the home owners on Lever St. The city of Blaine needs to provide all of the property owners on Lever St, specific details as to how and why our properties will magically increase by this absurd amount.

What makes America so great is how we stand up for what is right and wrong. Dig deep inside your conscience and contemplate what you would do if your mother/father/loved one was faced with a similar scenario whereby they were forced with this unaffordable assessment that the majority of homeowners do not want. You CANNOT in good conscience vote to put this in and force everyone to pay for something 2 out of 8 people want.

We will be soon trying to get both our kids through college. If you tap on the city's assessments on top of college costs we will not be able to afford help our kids with any college costs thus incurring costs also onto them. I am pleading to you all to not vote this in. To sum up, I contest the road assessments for improvements on Lever St. The burden should be on the developer and they should pay this cost.

Mayor Tom Ryan and council members, I voted for you to be representatives of this city but first to me. Please represent me, my family, my neighbors and please listen to us.

Lever Street Talking Points:

- The only ones who benefit are the ones who are developing their land or selling it. There is no benefit to those who plan to stay for the foreseeable future.
- The timing of the project will most likely cause Tamblyns Farm and Greenhouse to go out of business
- The people who actually live on this street are probably in no financial capability to be able to pay for their assessment unless they sell. That is the only time they would see a benefit from this project.
- There are many wonderful developments in Blaine, but developing them all to look the same eliminates the diverse beauty in Blaine. Lever Street as it sits now, gives you the feeling of being in the country, even though the hustle and bustle of the city is only a mile or two away.
- This project is clearly being pushed by the developer National Land Investors LLC and a former Blaine City Council member, because they are the ones who truly benefit from this project.
- There are 9 houses on the street, only 8 families live on the street. Of the 8 families 6 of them did not sign the petition.
- This project is not wanted by the people who live there. Please listen to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. M.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

6-28-2017

Comments!

1. We were not notified. Per MN Statute 429... .031, .061, .081. Can prove via USPS emails.
2. October 2016 Workshop handouts say the developers will pay for the improvements as development occurs. → including street improvements
3. After the October 2016 Workshop, Russ Herbst, who was a standing council member at the time, stopped me on the road and assured me that we had nothing to worry about. He said all the information was in the Workshop handouts and that the developers would pay for all the utilities and road improvements. "You won't pay a dime", he said to me. It's apparent that the city council is pulling a bait and switch tactics.
4. It is unfair to ask residents pay for a road that the developers will depreciate before its time. Heavy excavators, dump trucks, and countless other equipment will be running up and down the roads for the next several years. This is going to put a lot of extra wear and tear on a new road. Developers should be footing the bill for this since they are the ones seeking to profit from the development. I suppose next, the city will be asking the residents once again for more money to fix the road that the developers destroyed. This is unjust and the city should not treat its residents this way.

Dan & Myia Fish

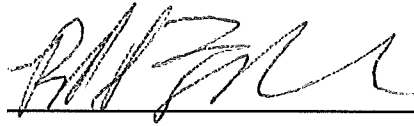
12860 Lever St. NE, Blaine 55449

cell: 763-443-7757

danieldeanfish@yahoo.com

City Council Members,

I contest the road assessments for improvements to Lever Street North East. The developer should pay. They will force the residence that live on this street and have been paying taxes for years to sell. Some of the residence cannot afford these assessments. This burden should be placed upon the developer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. M.', written over a horizontal line.

6-26-2017

City Council Members,

I contest the road assessments for improvements to Lever Street North East. The developer should pay. They will force the residence that live on this street and have been paying taxes for years to sell. Some of the residence cannot afford these assessments. This burden should be placed upon the developer.

GERALD CLARKE

G. Clarke

Dated 6.26.17



City Council Members,

I contest the road assessments for improvements to Lever Street North East. The developer should pay. They will force the residence that live on this street and have been paying taxes for years to sell. Some of the residence cannot afford these assessments. This burden should be placed upon the developer.

James R. Lambly 6/28/17

City Council Members,

I contest the road assessments for improvements to Lever St NE. I believe the developer should pay. This assessment will force the residents who live on this street, and have been paying taxes for years, to sell. Some of the residents cannot afford these assessments. This burden should be placed on the developer.

  6/28/2017

City Council Members,

I contest the road assessments for improvements to Lever St NE. I believe the developer should pay. This assessment will force the residents who live on this street, and have been paying taxes for years, to sell. Some of the residents cannot afford these assessments. This burden should be placed on the developer.

Charles & Kathleen Marshall

6-28-17

6/26/2017

City Council Members,

My wife and I formally contest the road assessments for improvements to Lever St NE. Forcing residents to fund the road improvements that developers will not only profit from, but will also expediently depreciate with excavators, dump trucks, and other heavy equipment is wrong. It was stated in the October 2016 public workshop documents that were provided by the city to residents that developers would be paying for the improvements as development occurred. Shortly after the workshop I was approached by standing council member, Russ Herbst, further assuring me that my wife and I "would not pay a dime" for the utility or road improvements.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fish", written above a horizontal line.

Daniel Fish

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myia Fish", written above a horizontal line.

Myia Fish