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City Administrator

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The City of Vadnais Heights
800 East County Road E
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

June 22, 2020

Re: Street Repair Funding Program

Dear Vadnais Heights Resident and Property Owner,

I'm writing you about a proposed change to our street repair program. Specifically this is in regards to an increase in the franchise fee, the dedicated source for street repair approved in 2018. Over the past year, City Council has had significant discussions about our street repair program and the desire to do more. With our current funding levels, we've quickly found that we are unable to "catch up" with our street repair needs and meet the demands of our property owners. This led to a discussion about how to do more and it quickly became a financial discussion. The amendment to the franchise fee would double the amount collected and effectively double the amount of street repair completed each year.

It's believed by our Public Works staff and City Engineers, a doubling of the fee will allow us to better keep pace with the disrepair of our city streets system. This letter to the community is a personal invitation to provide me with feedback or concerns you may have regarding the fee increase. We recognize this fee is essentially a tax, but also feel it's an effective tool to better quantify and identify an annual funding source for street repair.

Finally, we know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone. The fee increase being considered would not go into place until the start of 2021 to give reprieve if needed. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have questions.

See attached for an information sheet on the proposed franchise fee increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Kevin Watson
City Administrator

