

Dear Madam Chair and members of the committee,

On behalf of Mosaic Christian Community in St.Paul, I write in support of HF 1484.

In 2012 after 75 plus years of serving Saint Paul's Eastside, First Church of the Nazarene found itself a disconnected commuter church. Those who remained desired to be more reflective of and resourceful to our Payne/Phalen neighborhood. Those leaders chose to close Saint Paul First and relaunch as Mosaic Christian Community. Together we set out to live more hospitable lives by engaging strangers, inviting them to be guests and equipping them to be hosts.

This mission has led us to turn over ground for refugees to garden. Host weekly summer block parties, Halloween Trunk N Treats, Easter Extravaganzas and local Food Trucks so neighbors can connect. We opened our doors as a polling station, a site for SPPS summer feeding program, YouthWorks Kids Clubs, free flu shots, wellness clinics and more.

In 2018 we partnered with students and neighbors to establish a free food shelf at Johnson High School. Two summers ago we opened our parking lot as a Safe Parking Program, the first of its kind program in the state of Minnesota. Our parking lot now hosts unsheltered women and women with dependents who are living in their cars. Mosaic's parking lot serves as a safe place for referred guests to park and be connected with Ramsey County resources.

Through our neighborhood and county partnerships we were connected with Settled. Settled's community first response to homelessness fits our mission and vision. Our desire is to host a Sacred Settlement at Mosaic consisting of six "tiny homes" on the church grass, with access to the church building as a common house. Four homes would be for people coming out of homelessness and two homes would be for "missionals"- people who have not experienced homelessness and are dedicated to living a life in community, offering their experiences, knowledge and support.

As a resident of our neighborhood I can say we have a fantastic community to invite our unsheltered friends into. I believe our community will be a tremendous resource to our unsheltered friends. I am confident our unsheltered friends will become a tremendous blessing to our neighborhood too.

Madam Chair and members, please support House File 1484.

Sincerely,

Jeff O'Rourke
Lead Pastor
Mosaic Christian Community