




Emily Larson
Mayor

Room 422
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

 218-730-5230

 elarson@duluthmn.gov

February 11, 2022

To the esteemed members of the Minnesota House Committee on Taxes:

I write to you today in support of H.F. 1661 and S.F. 1628, co-authored by Representative Schultz and Senator McEwen, requesting a property tax exemption for St. Ann's Senior Residence located in the Central Hillside neighborhood of Duluth, Minnesota.

St. Ann's is a pillar of the Duluth community. For over 50 years, their dedicated services for senior citizens in our community have been a critical piece of the social safety net. St. Ann's is mission-focused, providing safe and secure housing, meals, and long-term care for seniors regardless of their ability to pay. Their commitment to housing and care for seniors who participate in government-subsidized programs for room and board such as the Elderly Waiver Program ensures that all seniors have an option for long-term care and housing regardless of their financial situation.

Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood, where St. Ann's is located, has lower than citywide rates of education and income levels and higher than citywide proportions of renter occupied households (80%) and people of color according to the 2015 City of Duluth Housing Indicator Report. From 2010 to 2015, the average rent in this district increased by \$168 to a monthly average of \$868. Competition for safe and affordable housing in this neighborhood is a challenge, with one of the lowest vacancy rates in the city. As Duluth's population continues to age, we have increased demands for safe and affordable long-term care facilities and services for senior citizens in particular. St. Ann's commitment to accommodate seniors struggling with poverty responds to a critical need in the Central Hillside neighborhood and Duluth at large.

The proposal you are considering today is common sense in its approach. When you consider the nature of the services that St. Ann's provides, it makes sense that this facility should be excluded from property tax assessments similar to other nursing and long-term care facilities. This oversight when the tax code was revised in the 1980s has resulted in an increased burden upon an organization that serves some of the most vulnerable seniors in our community.

Thank you for your review of this matter, and for the time reading this letter.

Sincerely,

Emily Larson
Mayor, City of Duluth

www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



**CITY OF DULUTH
CITY COUNCIL**

330 City Hall 411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1189
URL: www.duluthmn.gov
Fax (218) 730-5923

EM WESTERLUND
3rd District City Councilor
Phone: (218) 355-1137
ewesterlund@duluthmn.gov

March 8, 2018

To the esteemed members of the Minnesota House Committee on Taxes:

We write to you today in support of H.F. 2956, co-authored by Representatives Schultz and Olson requesting a property tax exemption for St. Ann's Senior Residence located in the Central Hillside neighborhood of Duluth, Minnesota.

St. Ann's is a pillar of the Duluth community. For over 50 years, their dedicated services for senior citizens in our community have been a critical piece of the social safety net. St. Ann's is mission-focused, providing safe and secure housing, meals, and long-term care for seniors regardless of their ability to pay. Their commitment to house and care for seniors who participate in government-subsidized programs for room and board such as the Elderly Waiver Program ensures that all seniors have an option for long-term care and housing regardless of their financial situation.

Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood where St. Ann's is located has lower than citywide rates of education and income levels and higher than citywide proportions of renter occupied households (80%) and people of color according to the 2015 City of Duluth Housing Indicator Report. From 2010 to 2015, the average rent in this district increased by \$168 to a monthly average of \$868. Competition for safe and affordable housing in this neighborhood is a challenge, with a vacancy rate in this neighborhood of just 1.6% -- one of the lowest vacancy rates in the city. As Duluth's population continues to age, we have increased demands for safe and affordable long-term care facilities and services for senior citizens in particular. St. Ann's commitment to accommodate seniors struggling with poverty responds to a critical need in the Central Hillside neighborhood and Duluth at large.

The proposal you are considering today is common sense in its approach. When you consider the nature of the services that St. Ann's provides, it makes sense that this facility should be excluded from property tax assessments similar to other nursing and long-term care facilities. This oversight when the tax code was revised in the 1980s has resulted in an increased burden upon an organization that serves some of the most vulnerable seniors in our community. In the interest of Duluth's senior citizens and their families, we urge you to rectify this situation and support the bill before you today.

Sincerely,

Em Westerlund
Councilor, District 3

Gary Anderson
Councilor, District 1

Barb Russ
Councilor, At-Large

Joel Sipress
Councilor, District 2

Renee Van Nett
Councilor, At Large



Saint Louis County

100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2450 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

March 21, 2018

Saint Ann's Residence
Scott Johnson, Executive Director
330 E. 3rd Street
Duluth, MN 55805

Executive Director Johnson:

We are writing this letter to offer our support for the House of Representatives bill #2956 as sponsored by Representative Schultz.

Saint Ann's Residence non-profit status and long term presence in our community providing shelter, food and healthcare for our impoverished seniors is critical to our community.

We are grateful for the 130 years of mission that this organization has provided, and we look forward to its continued longevity in St. Louis County.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Beth Olson
Third District



Saint Louis County

100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2450 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

March 12, 2018

Saint Ann's Residence
Scott Johnson, Executive Director
330 E. 3rd Street
Duluth, MN 55805

Executive Director Johnson:

We are writing this letter to offer our support for the House of Representatives bill #2956 as sponsored by Representative Schultz.

Saint Ann's Residence non-profit status and long term presence in our community providing shelter, food and healthcare for our impoverished seniors is critical to our community.

We are grateful for the 130 years of mission that this organization has provided, and we look forward to its continued longevity in St. Louis County.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Patrick Boyle
Second District

Commissioner Frank Jewell
First District

Hi Scott,

I was going to wait until the DOR send a notification; however, the DOR met to discuss St. Anns case as well as several others in similar situations and have declined to recommend approval of a charitable exemption status. At this point, it would be beneficial to consider legislation. The St. Louis County Assessor's office along with County administration are willing to support legislation if that is the route that you choose to consider.

I'm sorry that our efforts have not resulted in a positive resolution for St. Anns. Please let me know if I can assist further.

Mary

*Mary Garness
Public Records and Property Valuation Director
St. Louis County – Public Records and Assessment
100 N. 5th Avenue West
Duluth, MN 55802
218-726-2675
garnessm@stlouiscountymn.gov*