



COUNCILMEMBER NELSIE YANG

ST. PAUL WARD 6 WEEKLY UPDATE

19 - JUNE - 2020

Hey all! Councilmember Nelsie Yang here,

I'm super excited to **launch our weekly newsletter!** My staff and I will highlight important updates and opportunities you need to know about. I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health despite this pandemic. I urge all of you to wear face masks and access free COVID-19 testing this month. While my staff are working directly to respond to constituents, I continue to devote my time and energy to the following issues:



I'm one of two St Paul councilmembers who **support defunding and abolishing the police.** This is the work and vision I believed in when organizing side by side with people who were formerly incarcerated, multiracial organizations, and Black and Brown community leaders while at TakeAction Minnesota. I ran for office to continue this work as a fellow decision-maker, and will be dedicating my time and energy to this cause. We need to address the systemic issues in our community instead of relying on the false societal narrative that police departments will solve these problems for us. [Watch this livestream](#) where Professor S. Vitale, TakeAction Minnesota, and myself preview what this work is all about.

We are so **close to passing our tenant rights ordinance.** Currently, tenants face unreasonable expectations around security deposits, criminal background checks, credit score checks, and evictions. This is unacceptable. We know that these injustices disproportionately affect people of color, immigrants, refugees, and people living in poverty. In a city where more than half of our residents are renters, we need to ensure renters have rights by passing policies to make housing more accessible and while preserving affordable housing. **Here's how you can share** why tenant rights are important to you:



- 1) Email the Council at Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us
- 2) Call/Leave a Voicemail for the Council at 651-266-6805,
- 3) [Sign up to testify](#) at the upcoming public hearing on Wednesday, June 24, 10AM



I am excited to wrap up this newsletter with this [celebratory news](#) that the St Paul City Council **voted unanimously to ban conversion therapy for youths.** Conversion therapy—a practice to change a person's gender identity and/or sexual orientation—is torture, and it has no place in St Paul. As we celebrate PRIDE month, I'm sending an abundance of love and joy to our LGBTQ+ community. May we continue building a world where people across gender and sexuality live dignified lives, with everlasting joy, free from fear about being themselves. <3 You deserve the whole world!