

**From:** [Emily Kirkevold](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Submission for 2024 City Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:14:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [St. Paul Budget Letter 2023 FINAL.pdf](#)

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Hello,

On behalf of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, we submit the attached comment on the 2024 Budget (RES 23-1833) being heard at City Council tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

All the best,

**Emily Kirkevold**

Government Affairs Manager

*SHE, HER, HERS*

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*We bring people together to create, preserve, and promote affordable homeownership and advance racial equity in housing. [Get involved!](#)*



December 6, 2023

Council President Brendmoen and  
St. Paul City Councilmembers  
15 Kellogg Blvd W Ste 310  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Re: Comment on 2024 Proposed City Budget

Dear Council President Brendmoen and Members,

As a provider and advocate for affordable housing, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has worked to develop, preserve, and promote affordable homeownership to advance racial equity in housing. We have developed throughout the city to provide single and multi-family options that fit the needs of the families we serve.

To achieve our vision for an equitable Twin Cities, our organizational focus is on lowering the racial homeownership gap. This won't be possible alone, our government partners will be essential to support efforts to decrease barriers and add resources that allow families to enter into affordable, sustainable homeownership while accessing the generational impacts it provides.

Every year, the City of St. Paul works together to pass a budget that aims to answer the growing need throughout its community. In response to the proposed 2024 city budget, we offer the following comments for your consideration:

**Continuing our partnership with elected officials and city staff on the large-scale development, of the Heights.** Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is excited by the prospect this project brings to expand opportunities for affordable homeownership on the Greater Eastside of St. Paul. We plan to develop over 140 units of affordable homeownership from single-family to townhomes, all of which will meet the sustainability standards required. This project is facing a large gap in financing due to high construction costs and an increasing affordability gap that will require partnership from all levels of government to support filling.

Currently, in tandem with the other Heights Housing Partnership, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is pursuing a tax increment financing application in addition to a variety of resources from Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota. However, further support from the City of St. Paul will be vital in ensuring the success of this project for hundreds of families entering into homeownership and gaining access to the generational impact it will provide. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity looks forward to continuing

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work with city staff and elected officials in the next year to find additional sources that can support filling development and affordability gaps.

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is grateful to our partners at the City of St. Paul for their work this past year and their continued partnership in bringing affordable homeownership to its communities. We believe it is important to take opportunities like the city's budgeting process to not only share this exciting project but to highlight the challenges our organization is facing to bring this project to fruition.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Coleman  
President & CEO