

Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
310 City Hall
St. Paul, MN, 55102

March 10, 2025

Dear Members of the City Council:

My name is Rebecca Penfold Murray, and I live in Ward 3, represented by Saura Jost. I am writing today as a member of a new fitness studio in Saint Paul, Hotworx, located in the Union Park neighborhood at 431 Snelling Avenue North. The studio is owned and operated by Natalia and Malik Davis, who also live in Saint Paul.

I am writing today to express my support of the Hotworx business concept, and to detail how safe and welcoming the studio and surrounding environment are. I have been a member of Hotworx since its opening day, and I use the studio on average three times per week. I am a homeowner, parent of four kids (and two dogs), I have a full-time job, and my spouse and I are generally overbooked during the day and early evening with work, kid events, and house responsibilities. As a result, I typically work out very early in the morning (before 6am) before the chaos of the day starts; or after 7pm, when I am able to wrap kid activities. This means I am rarely at Hotworx during daylight hours. I have never felt uncomfortable or unsafe parking, walking to the studio, accessing the studio entrance, or using the facilities in the studio.

Hotworx members are able to park in a well-lit and covered parking ramp. The walk from the parking ramp is a hundred or so feet, and the sidewalk is well-lit and completely visible to those driving by on Snelling Avenue. Access to the studio is accomplished with a single tap via the Hotworx app, and I feel very secure using this method to access the studio.

The studio itself is welcoming, spotless, and members use a scheduling system to book time in various saunas to work out. Using this method, I know if I will be working out with another person or not. I can choose to schedule myself in an unoccupied sauna if I want privacy for any reason. Once in a sauna, the temperature is easily adjustable – I could even turn it off if I wanted to. The workouts are clearly guided, and I do not have questions about posture or body safety when working out. There are video workouts available for the free weights which show appropriate posture and movement for weight lifting. I feel extremely secure in the studio, both from a personal safety perspective, and from a “I’m not going to get injured doing this workout” perspective.

I have never been alone in the studio – there are always others working out. Each Hotworx member is respectful of their fellow athletes, the saunas and the equipment. If I *was* alone in the studio, I would feel no less safe. The entrance is secure, and all the workouts are private, with the exception of the free weights, which are in a room with a window.

Knowing the studio has the potential to be open extended hours is very exciting. I urge you to approve Hotworx to allow 24-hour access that is not always staffed. This will enable many of us to access the

studio more frequently and conveniently. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and would like to hear more about the user experience at Hotworx.

Sincerely yours,

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