

Citizens League
St. Paul Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Task Force
July 13, 2017 Meeting #7

The Citizens League committee studying the question whether Saint Paul should create and implement a PILOT/SILOT program is nearing the end of the phase when they listen, ask, read and study. On July 12 and 13, that work continued.

On Wednesday, July 12, a handful committee members, the co-chairs and Citizens League staff met in a previously announced extraordinary session to hear comments from the general public. About 20 people offered up their thoughts on the PILOT/SILOT issue. They spoke from their perspectives in fields including health care, social service, religion, teaching and government workers.

The task force has begun the process of reaching consensus. They are crystalizing their understanding of the information gleaned from the public comments, six formal committee sessions held since June 1, and hours of research. Eventually, the committee will present to the city recommendations based on conclusions drawn from what they've learned – facts and findings.

On Thursday, July 13, the committee walked through nearly 20 Findings in three categories: General Findings Regarding the Creation of PILOT/SILOT Programs; Findings Pertaining to the Potential Creation of a PILOT/SILOT Program in Saint Paul; and, Findings Regarding Long Term Implications.

After polling the committee and hearing how members interpret each of the facts and findings, staff were directed to gather more data pertaining to a handful of issues.

During the discussion, members reminded each other:

- they have not been asked to relieve the City of Saint Paul's budget pressures;
- if a PILOT/SILOT program is implemented in Saint Paul, it must be, by definition, a voluntary program;
- it has not been determined if a PILOT/SILOT program is the right policy for Saint Paul;
- it's not yet clear if or how the city services used by tax-exempt entities can be quantified; and,
- it's not yet clear if tax-exempt entities will have to divert resources from providing services in order to participate in a PILOT/SILOT program.

More discussion is slated for the next meeting on Thursday, July 20, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m., at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul. The meeting is open to the public.

Previous agendas, minutes, and background material can be found on the Citizens League website, <https://citizensleague.org/what-we-do/policy/pilotsilot-project/>.