



Vikings Stadium

1 message

Colvin Roy, Sandra K. <Sandra.ColvinRoy@minneapolismn.gov>

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To: "Colvin Roy, Sandra K." <Sandra.ColvinRoy@minneapolismn.gov>

Thank you for contacting me about the proposed stadium in Minneapolis. Over the last few months, I have had hundreds of communications about the Vikings stadium. People feel very passionately about this stadium plan. Some have even said that if I vote for it, they will make sure that I lose my seat on the City Council. I won't put my political interests ahead of the need for property tax relief and jobs in Minneapolis; I want to be able to look myself in the mirror each morning.

I stated that I will not violate the City Charter requirement for a referendum on stadium spending. I have not changed my mind, I will not do that. This plan depends on an extension of existing sales taxes which are collected in Minneapolis but are controlled by the State. Since that first hearing by the City Council last December, the City Attorney has stated that this plan does not trigger the referendum. This funding plan does not depend on the general fund. Once again, I believe that Minneapolis property tax payers will actually benefit from this plan.

My knee-jerk reaction was to object to public funding for professional sports. However, I realized that that was just my personal view and that I have an obligation not to stop there. I needed to listen to my constituents and to investigate the facts. After much investigation and assessment, I believe that this plan would bring substantial property tax relief to Minneapolis property tax payers. Property tax relief is something that I cannot ignore.

I have struggled with the fact that doing the right thing for Minneapolis is probably going to be unpopular with many residents. However, as I scrutinized the financing, I became convinced that the current proposal will ease the burden on Minneapolis taxpayers. The proposal will actually allow Minneapolis taxpayers to benefit, for a change, from the sales taxes collected in our city. We will be able to use some of that money for continued convention center operations, but also to support other infrastructure which will reduce the burden for taxpayers.

If I did not believe that this action would lead to tax property tax relief, I would not support it.

I have seen the consequences of good decisions and of bad decisions for our city. I know how important it is that those of us in office now make a decision that is good for Minneapolis today and for thirty years. I did not reach my conclusion lightly. No matter what lies in my future, I hope you will know that I have the interests of Minneapolis residents at heart.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. I always appreciate it.

Sandy Colvin Roy, Council member Ward 12

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