

**This is regarding an item on the City Council's meeting agenda set for December 8, 2021:**

**File# and Name: 21-310-795, 1708 Selby Rezoning**

**Purpose: Rezone from B2 community business to RM2 medium-density multiple-family residential.**

My name is Marlene Toman. I live at 1706 Hague Avenue in St Paul – the block next to the property that is being discussed. This is a quiet, diverse neighborhood, filled with a community of neighbors where many know each other and look out for each other.

All of the homes in the area are either 2 story or one-and-a-half story homes. There are also two-story, 4-plex apartment buildings with NO off-street parking. The idea of putting a FIVE story apartment building – right in the middle of a very narrow block with NO alley is shocking to me. I understand that apartment buildings have a place in neighborhoods – especially in the city, but a FIVE story one which will tower over our quiet neighborhood? That will be more than twice the height of all surrounding buildings. Blocking light and sky for many houses around.

It is not even on a bus line or any other public transit lines like Marshall Avenue is– so why does it have to be so large? It will stand out like a skyscraper over all of the homes in the area.

A few blocks from here – on Marshall Avenue there are countless five story apartment buildings being built right now. How can there be a need for that many in this area??? I suspect many will be sitting empty.

I also want to mention the fact that they want to put 38 units in the building but only want to supply 17 parking spaces – on a snow emergency route. The side streets to this proposed property – Hershel Avenue and Aldine Street – are very narrow one-way streets which can be sometimes be unpassable during the winter months.

Our streets are filled with parked cars every evening when people return home from work. Where are these new renters going to put their cars? Two houses on our block alone do not have a driveway, as well as houses across Selby from the proposed site – thus more cars on the street.

It says “multiple-family residential” in the proposal for the building. We were told that there will be studio and one-bedroom apartments in it. **How can that be “family” residential?**

I truly ask that you please consider the neighborhood when making your decision about this property proposed. Thank you.