

From: sarah beeman
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 3:20 PM
To: Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul)
Subject: proposed building next to Nova Classical Academy

Dear Ms. Noecker,

I am writing to you as a resident of Saint Paul and as a parent of two students at Nova Classical Academy. I'm very concerned about the proposed construction of another apartment building, and even more so that it would be adjacent to the school building.

After the outstanding academic program that Nova offers, our family has been so pleased with the safety of the neighborhood where the Nova board chose to build the school. My older child attended the Twin Cities German Immersion School for three years; their move to a busy urban area on University Avenue was a deciding factor in our decision to transfer out of that school. It was hard to tell if people mulling about belonged in the area or if they were dangerous to the students. It makes good sense to keep young children set apart from a busy urban walkway. Not only will the proposed building create unsafe road conditions, it could make it more difficult to discern if a person is loitering around our children. My understanding is that the current plan includes a parking garage that exits just in front of our school. These streets are already congested for drivers and quite treacherous for the children at arrival and departure times.

It seems unwise to build an apartment building adjacent to a K-12 school. Our family does not support this plan, and asks that the planning board reconsider this plan. We understood that there would be a park, a soccer facility, and mixed housing in the area, according to the original plan. Having multiple apartment buildings within one block of Nova is not ideal, and the building adjacent to the school is outrageous in my opinion. This area will no longer be pedestrian-friendly or family-friendly.

We had considered moving closer to school, as we had planned to attend for several years; this new plan does not support a family neighborhood. As the school continues to grow it will most definitely attract more families--condominiums and single-family homes would be sensible additions to the area.

Please reconsider approving more plans to build apartment buildings in the immediate area around Nova Classical Academy. The school is a valuable asset to our city and we need to preserve its integrity.

As you know, the tax rate in Saint Paul is very high--I feel that as a homeowner in the city and as a parent of two Nova students I would like to have a voice in this issue.

Thank you,

Sarah Beeman Hassouni
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