

David Eide

From: Anna Wood <aewood220@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 1:49 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_DSI-ZoningReview
Cc: strongersoberhouse@gmail.com
Subject: Letter of Support for 269 Harrison

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anna and I am writing to you in regards to having the opportunity of experiencing sober living through Stronger Sober Living in St. Paul. I came to them through the recommendation of a peer in my outpatient recovery women's program at Elite Recovery Addiction Treatment. This woman had been able to previously live at Stronger Sober Living women's house before being stable enough to move forward with her program and healing journey. I was very nervous moving and I also knew I was unable to maintain my sobriety in my current living situation. I did not know there were residential resources available like sober living before coming into the recovery community. Having the opportunity to have a safe, comfortable, clean, respectful, and welcoming environment like Stronger Sober Living's house to call home has been extremely helpful to be able to stay sober and continue in my recovery program. The women peers, house manager, and house owners have all been very helpful and supportive, and I know I can come to any one of them with an issue that I'm struggling with and know I will get the support at the time it is needed.

I am diagnosed with celiac disease which can only be managed with a strict gluten free diet. This was a concern of mine when deciding whether community living would be a good fit. I am happy to say the kitchen is always free and clean and feels safe to be able to cook and eat with my dietary restrictions. There are no issues I have had in this aspect which is a huge relief to me and holds a lot of value in the place I call home. We work together as a house to make sure everything is well maintained and is a safe space for every resident, current or new comer.

I am happy to be able to say today I get to celebrate six months of sobriety, greatly in part to being able to live at Stronger Sober Living's house. Knowing I have the accountability, support, and safety to be able to figure out what life looks like while being sober has given me hope I will be able to maintain my sobriety when I am in a stable place to move forward with my life. It would be devastating if this resource was taken away, and so many lives would be disrupted and impacted negatively. There has already been a lot of disruption to services with Nuway outpatient program being closed down, along with several other closures. Resources are limited for people trying to learn how to be sober and stay sober from substances, and more restriction would be devastating to the recovery community here in St. Paul.

I ask that every possible avenue be explored to be able to keep Stronger Sober Living and other programs like it be able to keep their doors open for people in need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Wood

651-341-2303

David Eide

From: Jenny St.Sauver <junipers999@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 1:29 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_DSI-ZoningReview
Subject: Strongersoberhouse@gmail.com

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Hello my name is Jen and I currently live in the Harrison house. I have been in my recovery journey for 10 yrs now and have lived at a couple other sober homes in the past. This house has by far been the best for me. These are the reasons why:

The owners go above and beyond to help in all aspects of my recovery and they fix any little problem asap from the lawn mower to our laundry machines and even decorating to make it feel like a home for us.

We have a strong core group of women here that take care of each other and welcome newcomers.

Our house manager will bend over backwards to help us, whether it's with rides or getting us help in IOP or feeding us when we are low on funds.

Bottom line is, I'd be lost without this home. Everyone involved IS my family and help keep me sober one day at a time.

Jenny St.Sauver

Sent from my iPhone

David Eide

From: Lucia Bethke <luciamarieb@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 1:26 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_DSI-ZoningReview
Subject: Letter of support for 269 Harrison

[You don't often get email from luciamarieb@outlook.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

My name is Lucia Bethke. I have struggled with addiction since I was 15, and have been in & out of treatment since I was 18. At 23, Harrison House was my first sober house, and I am so grateful that it was. It is so well managed by Karen - who all the girls call our house mom, because she really is like a mother to us - and I feel immensely supported by all of my housemates. It's clean, there's rarely ever drama, and I feel that I've been able to come out of my shell a lot just by being in this house. Living here, I also managed to stay sober 5 months, which is the longest I ever had. Although I relapsed and had to be kicked out, I was blessed enough to get a second chance to live here, which I am grateful for everyday. Chum & Chad are both great house owners and keep up with maintenance as well.

David Eide

From: Tiffiney Taylor <tiffiney.taylor13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 1:54 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_DSI-ZoningReview
Cc: Stronger Sober House
Subject: Letter of support for 269 Harrison Ave.

[You don't often get email from tiffiney.taylor13@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tiffiney, I have lived at 269 Harrison since the middle of January. I am in my 14th month of sobriety from opiates. I have completed my treatment program and have chosen to remain in sober living with no rental assistance from outside sources. I have struggled to maintain my housing here as we have created a small community of women supporting women. I honestly feel that my ability to remain in sobriety has been impacted by living in the Harrison house. Women living together in a sober supportive environment has proven to increase success rates. I am currently taking the exam to become a certified peer recovery specialist. I will be working with peers outside this house to help support and guide them through their recovery. In the fall I'm planning to finish my college degree and get my masters/graduate degree in some form of addiction therapy. Living in a safe sober environment has enabled me to continue to progress in my life in sobriety. If I lose my housing I will not have anywhere to go, and most likely will drop out of my schooling. People's stigma about sober housing is so inaccurate. In the location of our home it could easily be bought and turned into college housing. Here there are curfews, UA's to ensure sobriety, no disturbances to the community, no issues with drunken nonsense in the middle of the night. Everyone here is community involved, in outpatient and working hard to better their lives Harrison house has supported that, and encouraged it. I have lived in other sober homes and believe this is the way to long term recovery if the recourses and structure are utilized. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly,
Tiffiney T

Sent from my iPhone