

Councilman Finney

This week the Council will consider an appeal of a decision by the Board of Zoning appeals regarding 2146 Grand. I ask for your vote in favor of the residents' appeal of the BZA decision.

As I understand the facts of the matter, I am surprised that the issue has gone this far. Specifically:

- * the owner's request for variance was rejected by city staff on 5 of 6 criteria;
- * the owner's excuse is that he was unaware of the regulation, a technically illegitimate argument and one that flies in the face of multiple notices sent to him by the City and UST;
- * the net result of granting the variance cuts the heart out of the ordinance managing student rental density, on which the neighborhood has come to depend;
- * renting to students is a choice on the landlord's part, making him subject to relevant sections of the Code as a matter of his own doing.

Just as a matter of civic governance, it is hard for me to imagine granting such a weakly argued and devastating exception to an important ordinance. Would granting the variance mean that I am exempt from ordinances of which I claim ignorance? If so, good luck governing this place!

Please vote for the citizens' appeal of the BZA decision on 2146 Grand.

Thank you.

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