

Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)

From: Michael Snyder <michaelsnyder1979@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2015 6:29 PM
To: Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)
Subject: 1916 Fairmont

Yaya Diatta
Department of Safety and Inspections
375 Jackson Street
Ste 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Re: Inga Oelschlager 1916 Fairmont Avenue

Dear Mr. Diatta:

Our house on Goodrich Avenue, built in 1912, is a 3-story Victorian stucco. We moved into the neighborhood in 1986 because of the nature and character of the houses and their location among the colleges bordering the area and the parish of Nativity of Our Lord. We are confident others moved and live here for the same reason. A new house built down the block following a tear down does not quite fit in with the more traditional houses in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. A lawn sign opposing tear downs sprouted in our next door neighbors front yard. Our neighbor, a former landscape architect for the City of Saint Paul, appreciates the history and traditions of the City and the neighborhood. We must agree with him. Now we learned the City recently granted a lot line variance to the owner at 1916 Fairmont Avenue, a home one block south and one block east of my home. The lot is large enough to divide and allow for the construction of another home. It is our understanding all lot lines in the City are straight. However, the owner, Inga Oelschlager, sought and was granted the right to vary the dividing lot line so that it is not straight. It jogs around the sunroom of the existing home. She has the right to build on her property. She has some reason for the jagged property line. The reasons all other lot lines in the City are straight, however, are rooted in continuity and tradition. Let's avoid hodgepodge and irregularity that satisfies the whim of the few and maintain straight lot lines. Granting this variance sets a dangerous precedent. Where does it stop, who will be next to ask to divide their property with a less than straight lot line, and will they cite 1916 Fairmont as a justification for their request? Say no to this variance.

Michael Snyder & Lane Kirchner
1979 Goodrich Avenue
Saint Paul, Mn 55105

Sent from my iPad