

Dear St Paul City Council,

Please reconsider going forward on the demolition of the Gillette building this summer. I understand the Saints want to get their ballpark finished and like the idea of a Saints stadium, but there are issues that have not yet been resolved, mainly a HUGE parking issue. I support the idea of reviewing the idea of the Gillette building being saved for parking and possible other year round uses. It sounds like an awesome opportunity for St Paul that has not been fully investigated for some reason. What is the reason?? My husband and I live in St Paul and have owned a business in a Lowertown building for over 30 years. The parking has become increasingly challenging, particularly in the last year. With the loss of the additional 300 plus parking spots near the Gillette building, we cannot imagine where everyone will park and the nightmare it will be to park around here. Businesses in the area, including the Farmers Market, will definitely consider relocating if parking becomes too much of a hassle. What a shame that would be! Parking is huge!!! The thing is, it sounds like it doesn't have to be that way, and there is a possible solution to this whole problem, and that is the reuse of the Gillette building! This building should be evaluated by an independent source to look at all the possibilities and implications--both pro and con. There are lots of people and businesses that will be affected by the loss of parking spaces around here. Please step back and take a second look at the Gillette building before it is too late! The Lowertown community expects this of our leadership.

Sincerely,  
Diane Barrett