

Good afternoon Council Members;

Please accept this email as my plea to you to continue to work with the owners of Cupcake to solidify and collaboratively work towards a solution to the parking variance issue. I am appalled at the actions taken last year regarding the removal of Cafe Amore and the approval of the corporate building of Anthropologie in its place. My opinion is that the decisions made by the council in that matter destroyed the small business, community-focused mission that is Grand Avenue.

Please do not make the same mistake with Cupcake by continuing to fight small business owners in our area. I believe that our neighborhood will benefit greatly from the addition of Cupcake, as it brings a local, friendly atmosphere to the block.

I myself am a state employee and attorney and understand the restrictions and legal matters that must be addressed in granting variances, so I wish you much luck as you work towards resolving these issues with the owners of Cupcake and their counsel.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Azure Schermerhorn-Snyder

Summit-University Neighborhood

Azure.Snyder@gmail.com

To all council Members, but especially Dave Thune of my district, what on earth are you doing? in these terrible times a small business wants to come to an empty building, and you are quibbling over a couple of parking places? Do you ever even go to that part of the block? I have both lived there (on Lincoln), and regularly shop in the neighborhood. Even when I am driving, I have never not been able to find a parking place. There are usually empty spots on grand and always in the parking garage. Mr. Thune, stop your maneuvering/grandstanding(so to speak) and get this done. Cupcake is a great fit and great addition to Grand Ave.

Dear Council President Lantry,

I live in the Battle Creek neighborhood...and proudly work, play and eat in St. Paul!

I was glad to hear that Cupcake has renewed its plans to open up a store on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. I hope that you will support moving forward with this project that will bring a nice taste of economic development to our great city...not to mention some delicious treats for our residents.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Wenz

Chief of Staff Dady -

I've addressed this to you as the city website doesn't list an email address for the Mayor. I wish to copy my city councilperson and the council president and our neighborhood association, so I am unable to use the form on the website. Please forward this to the Mayor.

Mayor Coleman -

I'm a Summit Hill resident and served 2 years on a joint GABA/SHA Parking Task Force, so I'm familiar with the challenges of parking for businesses (and residents) in our area. I wish to make a few brief points:

- 1) Parking problems take years or even decades to resolve. If a few extra weeks or months helps to form a workable solution in any particular instance, that solution and time-frame should be welcomed.
- 2) I'm sympathetic to the challenges for small businesses, as I am to all neighbors (businesses and residents) that will have to live for many years with whatever solution is achieved. While zoning/permit issues are confusing for all involved, it is naive for a small business to consider locating on Grand Ave. and not be aware that such issues will need to be addressed. Any commercial rental or leasing agent would also be well-aware of that need.
- 3) This particular situation is not uncommon. The building that was allowed to be built/developed at that location was too big/grand/expensive for its space. The owner/developer is then stuck - they need a high-rent tenant to make ends meet. The high-rent tenant needs space/infrastructure that isn't there - The city and neighbors are then pressured to allow it...
- 4) Finally, zoning variances are permanent - lease arrangements for individual off-site parking spaces are temporary. If a variance is granted, the terms should be enforceable over the long-term on the present and any subsequent tenant.

I wish you and the City Council and our neighborhood representation (SHA) good will and patience as you work toward a solution.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Frank Zink

852 Lincoln Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

frankzink@comcast.net
cell: 651-324-8514

St Paul needs Cupcake. We look silly to others
opposing a wonderful little business.
Vote for Cupcake.... it's a no brain'er

Councilmember:

Many of us living near Grand Ave businesses strongly support Cupcake. Cupcake would be a great addition to Grand Ave - it's a classy place. Its not a national franchise, its locally owned and managed, its hires many,.... how can anyone possibly object to Cupcake? We urge you to Vote for Cupcake

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