

**From:** [WENDY SURPRISE](#)  
**Cc:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [Xiong, Mai Chong \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward6](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward7](#); [Warner, Peter \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [Tierney, Rachel \(CI-StPaul\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Position Statement of the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) on the appeal of HPC decision regarding 540 Portland Avenue  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:25:22 AM

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Good afternoon. My name is Wendy Surprise and I live at 546 Portland Avenue. I am reaching out to you today to express my opposition to the proposed triplex at 540 Portland Avenue.

There are quite a few groups that have weighed in on this and at this point, I admit that I am confused by the process and which group, including local government groups, do what.

What I am perfectly clear about is my dismay that the City is even considering this project. I cannot understand the upside.

This block is very dense in the first place. There are single family and multi family throughout. There is a residential women's home (sober living) across the street from proposed project. The parking is a challenge every day.

I have lived in St. Paul since 1996 and moved to this neighborhood in 2019. I have complained to the City about the existing property several times because it is not well maintained.

I don't believe this process has been transparent. I don't believe the developer cares about preserving the neighborhood. It's all about money.

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 9:59 AM Tom Darling <[tsdarling@earthlink.net](mailto:tsdarling@earthlink.net)> wrote:

Dear Council Members and others: I am on the board of the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) and live at 445 Summit Avenue. On behalf of SARPA I am attaching and hereby submit SARPA's Position Statement in support of the decision of the Historic Preservation Commission denying the application regarding 540 Portland Avenue and opposing the appeal thereof to the City Council.

I understand that last night a 1/18/21 draft of this Position Statement was sent to most or all of you. This was inadvertent and I apologize for any confusion it might have caused. The document attached to this email is the final version of SARPA's Position Statement. It is identical to the draft version sent last night except for a change to last two lines on page 4 and to the first line on page 5. This change is essentially a format change to avoid possible confusion. Thank you for considering SARPA's position in this matter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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Tom Darling  
[tsdarling@earthlink.net](mailto:tsdarling@earthlink.net)

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