

From: Sarah Kane [mailto: ]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 3:33 PM  
To: Henningson, Samantha (CI-StPaul)  
Cc: #CI-StPaul\_Ward4; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3  
Subject: support of student rental ordinance

Hi Samantha,

Many people in support of the student rental housing ordinance would like to maintain balance and livability and quality of life in these neighborhoods and I agree completely and would like to give an example to support that view.

Our family of four has lived on the 2100 block of Fairmount Ave for just over 10 years and it is a fantastic location convenient to everything. About 5 years ago, we were searching for a larger home in this area and found a very nice one on Portland Ave near Moore. We had friends on the block who had purchased their homes in the early 90s and we asked about the student rentals on the block. They warned us saying that they would have never bought a house on their block if they had known how big of a problem the student rentals were. They said there have been some years where it wasn't too bad, depending on the group of renters that year, but it was an ongoing problem only getting worse. So, we passed on the house and a couple of others on Lincoln and Goodrich for the same reason. We decided to add onto our house instead, and the work was completed in spring of 2011, just as two very nice houses on our block were bought by parents for their students to live in. Our new neighbor is a junior at St. Thomas who had previously lived with a group of guys in a rental house a couple blocks away that was known to neighbors as a party house causing many problems. His mother told me she bought the house next to us so that he could have a nice quiet place to live, sleep and study. We've established a good, friendly relationship with him and when I told him about the ordinance, he said, "I totally get it (the ordinance). You don't want to happen here what happened over there and have this nice neighborhood turn into that" (as he pointed in the direction north of us, closer to St. Thomas). I found it interesting that even a St. Thomas student had to flee a block closer to school to get some peace and quiet. Now think about families working and raising kids who have the largest investment of their lives here. We like the student presence and liveliness it brings to the neighborhood, but a balance is crucial to the future livability of these neighborhoods.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this.

Sarah Kane