



SUMMIT-UNIVERSITY PLANNING COUNCIL

627 A Selby Ave
Saint Paul, MN
651.228.1855
summit-university.org

9/30/2020

Matthew Graybar
Board of Zoning and Appeals
390 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: 540 Portland

Dear Mr. Graybar,

The Summit-University Planning Council supports the requested variances for 540 Portland. Increasing density is a need across all of Saint Paul, and we are pleased to see that this project keeps that need in mind and works to address it.

Building under unit parking to handle the potential increase in cars (though as a city we are moving towards owning cars less and less) is very respectful of neighbors, especially since a few do not have off street parking. We know that this adds to the budget, and we appreciate that they have prioritized it.

We also understand that new construction in this area can be very expensive due to design specifications in the Historic District. The project manager noted that this would not cause an increase in cost for the units, and that they would be priced at 10% below the average in Ramsey Hill.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jens Werner
Executive Director
Summit-University Planning Council
627 Selby Ave Suite A
Saint Paul, MN 55104