

From: Bill Maloney [<mailto:wmaloney@smm.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2015 4:44 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Lot Line Variance

Dear Councilman Tolbert:

As a 25 year resident of the Macalester Groveland neighborhood I wish to share my disappointment about the weakened regulations for house tear-downs and new homes. I just heard that Board of Zoning approved a major variance to the lot lines defining property in St. Paul.

I strongly believe that property owners have the right to determine the use of their own land within the city codes. However, I disagree with the practice of changing lot lines to accommodate owners' nonconforming building desires! And I note that the Macalester-Groveland Community Council recommended that the variance be denied but they were overruled. And that The Board of Zoning Appeals' own staff acknowledges that the variance does not meet several standing criteria.

This smacks of powerful interests exerting undue influence.

My schedule does not permit me to attend the public hearing tomorrow but I wish to convey my sincere desire that you and our city council consider the rights of ordinary property owners against those of developers/builders who stand to profit from their intervention in overturning established codes, and the special character and ambiance that make St. Paul such a special place to live.

Thanks for considering my opinion.

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