

NO to Alatus

Angela Gauthier <angela.gauthier@adycenter.org>

Mon 3/22/2021 2:44 PM

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

To Whom it May Concern: We are in the throws of a housing crisis, on the cusp of becoming much worse when the full impact of this pandemic is felt. To truly end homelessness, we need housing, an ample stock of affordable housing. The sight for the Alatus project is in a neighborhood in need of that affordable housing. It is close to services, jobs, and transit which are vital on the road toward housing stability. As neighborhoods undergo transition- too much of the time this is done through forceful and damaging gentrification- and this project would move this neighborhood in that direction. We need neighborhood investment that supports the fact that everyone should have housing, and we must focus on the housing needs that are currently unmet- which is low barrier affordable and long term housing for youth, singles, and families. Please reconsider this project, and think of a way to utilize the sight to support the housing this city needs. Thank you.

Angela Gauthier, LMFT | Associate Director | Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

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Alatus

Judi Gordon <judi.gordon@comcast.net>

Wed 3/24/2021 3:36 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Hello Mr. Thao, it has been awhile since I spoke with you and it was about the then PROPOSED garbage collection issue. I still don't like it but will be gracious in defeat.

The issue of being a fixed income, senior citizen has been my deepening concern given the seemingly regular property tax increases, garbage collection impositions and now the Alatus proposal to build a 200+ apartment building on former Wilder property at Lexington and University Aves.

All I can say is, ARE THEY KIDDING.?

Affordable housing is our main need here, not middle income to high income apartments in that spot! Who will want to live off of Lexington, between a gas station and White Castle in addition two very noisy and busy streets? This makes no sense and flies in the face of plans for Racial equity as well.

Please push back on this as the council pushed against that plan too near to Summit. Vote "NO" and push against your colleagues to get a clue. This feels like the displacement of the Rondo neighborhood all over again.

Just give the plan a good look, the only AFFORDABLE UNITS ARE SO SMALL, THE AREA WOULDN'T ACCOMODATE MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO FURNITURE! Ridiculous and they only plan a a very few of those tiny units.

My hope is that if I loose this one as well and they get to build what they want, they will be very disappointed to find that they cannot find tenants.

Sent from my iPad

Alatus Project—please say no

berit.higuera@gmail.com <berit.higuera@gmail.com>

Mon 3/22/2021 7:05 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Councilmember Thao,

I'm reaching out in regard to the vote for/against Alatus project on April 4th. As a Lex Ham resident and SPPS preschool special Ed teacher, I know too well how limited truly affordable housing is in our beautiful city for our neighbors, students and families.

I encourage you to redirect the conversation towards efforts that bring and sustain truly affordable housing to our city. New housing that isn't even affordable to those 30% below median income is not it.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Martha Higuera

1287 Laurel Avenue

55104

651-235-1051

Sent from my iPhone

Please reject Alatus appeal

Caitlin Magistad <c.magistad@gmail.com>

Mon 4/5/2021 4:33 PM

To: Thao, Dai (CI-StPaul) <dai.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul) <mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

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Dear Councilmember Thao,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the Alatus appeal to redevelop Wilder's vacant lot. It is unconscionable that an organization that alleges to be "here for good" would contribute to the rapid and large-scale gentrification of the vacant parcel they've blighted the community with for years. Seriously, there was no higher and better use between the nasty snow pile and state fair shuttle parking and the monstrosity Alatus is now proposing?

Wilder should have always been a better steward for that parcel. They could have done significant, creative, ongoing engagement with the community members to understand (and then actualize) what current residents wanted to see "here for good" in terms of how the space could be activated. Having worked at the Foundation for three years (2013-2016), I cannot say I'm surprised they've botched this community process as badly as they have, unfortunately.

I understand the Foundation is a powerful organizational constituent in Ward 1. However, a dead millionaire's money doesn't make them more suited to deciding what is best for the neighborhood or the City. It isn't the fault of current leadership that foundational wealth was already stolen twice—first off the backs of workers, then hidden from taxation. However, current Foundation leadership could finally stop their sad tradition of infantilizing the poor. Voting to deny Alatus' appeal is an opportunity to push back against the notion that regular folks in Ward 1 don't know what our community needs. We know what it needs—deeply, permanently affordable housing, AT AND BELOW 30% AMI.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Magistad
1425 Ashland Ave
651.214.0077

Reject Alatus Appeal

Sara Gomoll <saragomoll@gmail.com>

Wed 4/7/2021 9:02 AM

To: Thao, Dai (CI-StPaul) <dai.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul) <mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

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Councilmember Thao,

I'm a resident of Ward 1 and want to express my strong opposition to Alatus's appeal to redevelop Wilder's vacant lot. Alatus's proposal is not in alignment with the needs and wants of our community, and therefore should be rejected. What we need is deeply affordable housing, at or below 30% AMI. Rents affordable at 60% AMI are a slap in the face of the affordability needs of this community, and should be uniformly rejected. Please take this opportunity to vote against this appeal, in the interests of your constituents and in service of your commitment to this community.

Thank you,

Sara Gomoll
she/her/hers
612.802.2175