



Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7)

685 Minnehaha Avenue West · Saint Paul, MN · 55104
Tel: 651-789-7407 · Fax: 651-789-7482 · www.frogtownmn.org

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Russ Stark
City Council Member, Ward 4
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council Member Stark,

We are writing in response to the proposed Student Housing Neighborhood Impact District. We hope that you will consider our plea to oppose this ordinance.

The core issue seems to be, that there are a growing number of problem properties within the Mac/Groveland and Merriam Park neighborhoods. We in Frogtown can empathize and agree that enforcement of underage drinking, noise ordinance violations, and criminal damage to property is worthy of a solution and we encourage action by the City.

However, the argument that the problem, around St. Thomas, is more serious or has reached a "Tipping Point" is, at minimum, insulting, but is also detrimental to the overall strength of our City.

We take pride in being a City of neighborhoods. However, that should not translate into a segregation of those with the loudest voices, those with the most financial influence, those with the most deposable time, and, at worst, those with the most power; due to their race and privilege.

We are all part of one City. If the overlay's boundaries have reached a tipping point of 45% rental, then the tipping point was reached a long time ago in Frogtown. At last check, we are at over 60% rental. In some areas, the same size as the proposed overlay, we have reached over 75% rental. We are not, currently, seeking an equal overlay for our community. We are looking for solutions that affect everyone and not just those that have the most time to complain. This proposal only pushes the problem onto some other part of the City and does nothing to address our overall problem of nuisance properties, both owner-occupied and rental.

Please do not set this discriminatory precedent. Rental property is not the enemy. We are all interested in safe and peaceful neighborhoods. If we have truly reached our tipping point, then let's balance our City together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cosandra Lloyd

Board Chair

Serving the Neighborhoods of East Midway, Frogtown, Capitol Heights, and Mt. Airy since 1970!

Registered 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit as the Thomas/Dale District 7 Planning Council