

Mr. Thune and other council members: As a longtime resident and property owner within Summit Hill, I welcome the proposed changes to make it easier for restaurants and bars to locate in the Grand Avenue area.

A vibrant Grand Avenue with a mix of local, regional, and national establishments is a unique part of our city. The recent resistance by the Summit Hill Association to Cupcake highlights an out of touch, outdated policy that threatens the future of the area. The bottom line is that businesses that aren't welcome will go elsewhere. Many of these such as Cupcake are good, local, destination restaurants and bars. They will find another part of the city or another city which will happily take their tax dollars and employees, as was the case with Noodles and Company.

Yes, parking and noise can be problems around the area but would we rather have empty storefronts and a business model of the past that thwarts development?

The message from the Summit Hill/Grand Avenue area should be "We welcome your business to our wonderful part of the city and we will be your partner in making your stay successful".

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Mark Staloch  
Osceola Ave.