

January 30, 2020

Michael Wade

City Planner
Planning & Economic Development
25 West 4th Street., Suite 1400
Saint Paul MN 55102

RE: 197 Baker Street East, St. Paul, MN 55107

Dear Mr. Wade,

WSCO is formally sending this notice to **withdraw our previous letter of support on the 197 Baker Street East, property**. After learning from residents who reside in the immediate vicinity, of strong opposition to the conversion of the existing duplex to a triplex located at 197 Baker Street East. We will work with City Planning staff to coordinate a process that allows for the timing of notification of residents to coincide with the voting process of WSCO.

As the District Planning Council of the West Side, we hear from residents far too often who are housing cost burdened families, who have lived and rented on the West Side for decades and now are being priced out and displaced. We also are cautious of false narratives and division of residents pitted against one another. The West Side is a strong, vibrant and diverse community. We believe that it is possible for all residents to thrive in our community **with 48% of residents of the West Side, who are renters**, and as the population growth continues in the twin cities and on the West Side, we are supportive of finding creative solutions to keep our residents in the neighborhood they have called home for many years.

Although WSCO holds strongly to the need for dignified equitable housing on the West Side. We also strongly believe in the centering of voices of those who are most directly affected by a given issue. Given, considerations to the voices of the families and residents most directly affected, the voting members of the leadership team, respectfully withdraw the letter of support.

Respectfully,



Monica Bravo
Executive Director
West Side Community Organization
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