

June 14, 2012

Dear Council Members,

I write to ask for your support for the student rental ordinance. I live at 2152 Lincoln Avenue and feel fortunate that our block has not been inundated with student rentals. We have a mix of ages from couples to families, as well as a few students. It has worked well in maintaining a balanced population of folks who support each other.

However, I feel vulnerable to the potential of increased rental housing for students because of our close proximity to the University of St. Thomas campus. The relationship between the university and our block has worked well thus far. I want the college to look at alternative housing solutions, such as on-campus dorms, in an effort to maintain positive relations with the surrounding neighborhoods. Policing the students has not brought the desired results. Cars racing at high speeds has threatened the safety of children playing in their front yards.

When my husband and I decide to sell our home I fear that the nature of our block will have changed enough to discourage family buyers from investing in our area. We are fully committed to keeping the integrity of the neighborhood while living here and following our departure.

Thank you for giving the appeal your careful consideration,

Becky Heist
heist@macalester.edu