

[ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us); [rebecca.noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:rebecca.noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us); [ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us); [ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us); [ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us); [ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us); [ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

SUPPORT OF FILE NUMBER 21-289-699, 695 Grand CUP and Variances Appeal

To: Council members , City of Saint Paul

From: Marilyn Bach, Resident , Saint Paul, Minnesota

Saint Paul, Minnesota is known nationwide for its desirable livability. But now the city is faced with the challenge of affirming that it is a city whose officials stand for the rule of law and ethics in government.

The 695 Grand development team wishes to build a five-story luxury structure in Saint Paul's storied Summit Hill.

This proposal is in violation of multiple zoning codes including:

**The East Grand Avenue Overlay District Sec. 67.600**

**The letter and intent of T3 zoning,**

**Sec. 66.344 (a). - Traditional neighborhood district planning requirements**

**Spot zoning , which is illegal in Minnesota**

**Violation of Sec. 66.633 footnote e**, which provides that "structures shall be no more than twenty-five (25) feet high alongside and rear property lines abutting RL-RT2 residential districts.

Yet approval for this proposal has ' sailed through "the City approval process.

The process was flawed from the very beginning, with the illegitimate practice at the Summit Hill Association (SHA) District 16 Planning Council's support of only 9 of 21 members, followed by the pro 695 Grand lobbying of one key member of the SHA, simultaneously a Planning Commissioner, through the Zoning Committee and the Planning Commission.

This process initially attracted ethical questions when three members of the Summit Hill Association co-presented this project to the public alongside the 695 grand development team.

The groundswell of opposition among Ward 2 constituents to this proposal been unprecedented. Nearly 500 Saint Paul residents from a wide swath of the city have signed a petition in opposition to this proposal. Letters to city officials in opposition have outpaced letters in support by a ratios of 4 to 1 –to in some instances 10 in

opposition to 1 in support. Yet City officials have not listened. Do Saint Paul residents not have a voice? Are the laws of Saint Paul not our guiding principles? Do ethics in government not matter in Saint Paul.?

The decision by the Planning Commission to grant the 695 Grand development team its application for CUP and Variances is now being appealed by citizens of Saint Paul.

I strongly urge City Council members to support this appeal: FILE NUMBER 21-289-699, 695 Grand CUP and Variances Appeal

Support of this appeal will affirm that indeed Saint Paul does stand for the rule of law and ethics in government.

Marilyn Bach  
9 Saint Albans Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55105