

To St. Paul City Council members, executive assistants, and legislative aides:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed ordinance designed to limit student housing in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. This ordinance is unfair and unnecessary.

I understand that St. Thomas students may have created issues for residents in Mac-Groveland. However, the ordinance was recently amended to expand the boundary into the neighborhood north of Macalester College as well. This unfairly targets Mac students, many of whom volunteer in the local community. I myself volunteered tutoring students at Ramsey Junior High this year. **I feel as though the city and neighborhood are attempting to penalize me based upon my age and occupation, regardless of what kind of community member I actually am.**

The ordinance would affect Macalester students much more than St. Thomas students. Mac students, unlike St. Thomas students, generally don't have personal vehicles to take to school. Forcing students to move farther away to rent imposes an exceptional burden on Macalester students, who will be forced to either walk long distances or spend extra money on public transit. In any case, whatever the situation with on campus housing at UST, Macalester requires students to live on campus for two years. Many more students choose to remain on campus beyond that. The density problems are caused by St. Thomas students. Take the UST administration and student body to task for it, not Macalester.

Finally, the ordinance is unnecessary. **St. Paul already has an ordinance against noise;** the city website states a noise is too loud if "you can plainly hear [the noisemakers] at the property line if they're inside a building or 50 feet away if they're outside." It is St. Thomas students and other noisy students who should be penalized for their behavior, not students as a group. Why should I be denied cheap, close to campus housing even if I am a courteous neighbor? If neighbors have a complaint, they can and should take it to the city for enforcement through existing laws. If a property owner finds student tenants to be poor caretakers of their property, they can decline to rent to them. But that decision should be made by the property owner, not the City Council.

I am a student, a voter, and a responsible member of the community. **I do not deserve to be penalized for the actions of others.** Please vote against the Mac-Groveland student housing ordinance.

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Class of 2015