

**From:** helen rossman**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 1:25 PM  
**To:** Diatta, YaYa (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** 1916 Fairmount Ave. variance

Mr. Yaya Diatta -

Concerning the Board of Zoning Appeals Resolution for 1916 Fairmount Ave. (File # 15-144105) - We live at 1907 Princeton Ave., which is diagonally across the alley from that property.

We have read: the documentation regarding the request for a variance in the property line, the Board of Zoning Appeals Staff Report, the minutes from the preceding meetings, the neighbors' responses, and the Board of Zoning Appeals Resolution. Our conclusion is that all the arguments, pro and con, are sensible and rational. There doesn't appear to be any simple solution and any resolution that will satisfy both sides.

The Board of Zoning Appeals decided to grant the request. We have two concerns with that decision.

First, the Board of Zoning Appeals *staff* recommended not to approve the requested variance, and the Macalester Groveland Zoning Council and the majority of the neighbors' responses also opposed the request. It is not clear to us why the Board of Zoning Appeals did not follow these recommendations, including that of their own staff. This needs more clarity. Specifically, the staff's denial focused on items #3 and #6 under the findings of fact.

Second, granting the jog in this property line is significant and will undoubtedly establish a precedent. This will encourage others to request complicated property line patterns - a type of gerrymandering.

We are unable to attend the hearing on September 2, but we strongly suggest that you consider our concerns when reviewing the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Allan and Helen Rossman  
1907 Princeton Ave.