

Dear Council Members--our family has lived at 1879 Carroll Ave. in Merriam Park for the last 21 years. Throughout that time, our neighborhood's biggest problem has been student rental houses. No resident of St. Paul should have to endure the conduct that goes with a student party house--the cans, bottles and plastic cups tossed in your yard every Friday and Saturday night, regularly being awakened at 2:00 in the morning by drunks coming or going, neighbors urinating and vomiting in your yard, party buses dropping off dozens of drunken, belligerent students at 2 a.m. to mill about on the boulevard. It's like having an unregulated, unsupervised bar serving mostly underage drinkers as a neighbor. We have had a crack house in the neighborhood and we have several half-way houses, and they are much less disruptive than the party houses. While the police are sympathetic, drunks screaming at their friends at 3 a.m. or dumping fast food wrappers in your yard are a low priority for them, and police efforts have been largely ineffective in the 21 years that we have been battling the student party house problem. We need the proposed student housing ordinance to give the neighbors a chance to control the problem. Our neighborhood is far enough from St. Thomas that a concentration of party houses has not developed. By working with our neighbors, we have been able to talk to the owners of party houses in our neighborhood, talk to the residents and, over time, control the problem. But it has been difficult and a constant effort. Had we been closer to St. Thomas where the concentration of party houses is greater, we would have given up long ago and moved elsewhere. Please vote for the student housing ordinance.

Sincerely

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