

**From:** [Joe Landsberger](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** 83 Douglas, File# 21-309-362, 83 Douglas Rezoning  
**Date:** Saturday, January 1, 2022 12:24:04 PM

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Office of the City Council  
310 City Hall  
15 Kellogg Blvd West  
St Paul, MN 55102

December 30, 2021

Greetings

I am writing in support of Charles Stevens and Laurel Gamms co-housing project for veterans at 83 Douglas, *File# 21-309-362, 83 Douglas Rezoning*.

Charles and Laurel are exemplary altruistic neighbors, proactively maintaining not only their residence but also the surrounding streets, alley and sewer grates! I am most impressed with their contributions to my immediate neighborhood (garden projects!) and also the development of the *Beautiful Laundrette* on the West Side, a familiar neighborhood of my first 30 years. It has become a community center with discounts, tutoring programs, *Libraries Without Borders*, and other outreach services—a brightly-lit solar beacon in a challenging environment. Their backgrounds in healthcare are impressive: as physicians, Laurel worked with the homeless with Catholic Charities and Charles currently with the Veterans Administration.

Cohousing is designed to foster community and cooperation while preserving independence. Superior Senior Living at 161 Erie Street in Little Bohemia is four blocks from 83 Douglas and a successful model. On our residential block we've had two beautifully maintained sober houses—though one has been converted to single family rental. Considering Charles' project, I mused that this property on my block would also lend itself to this type of housing and encourage the city to build on this concept of supported housing services while allowing for some independence.

As regards the population of veterans served, much prejudice has been brought forward without justification. Providing safe accessible housing should be a priority of all neighborhoods and this is an interesting model for our city. I am also hopeful that once the men and women veterans are housed, that they will be incorporated into the dynamic fabric of Little Bohemia.

Thank you for supporting this effort.

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