From: Anne Marie Campbell
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Variance for 1963 Grand Ave.
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 9:42:50 AM

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Whom it May Concern,

My name is Anne Marie Campbell, I am a local small business owner. My business, Twin Cities Reiki Master, is located at 970 Raymond Ave. Suite 202. I support Ruben and Michelle Benegas's variance request for 1963 Grand Avenue.

St. Paul needs more housing and new apartments are what many people are gravitating towards. The variance would allow for more on site parking in an area in which parking is already congested. Having 32 parking spaces for 61 apartments would add to the parking congestion. Having 75 apartments with 64 spaces leaves a space for most tenants. To me, this is a no brainer.

The Saint Paul city council has the gift and duty to make decisions that impact the majority of residents and businesses in St. Paul. I know that Summit Ave. residences are often vocal at meetings such as these, so I would like to address that. As someone who lived at 1358 Summit Ave. up uptil April 2024, I can attest to the beauty of the street and influence of its' residence. I understand how lovely it is to walk under the lilac bushes and watch marathons and bike races from my front porch. I can also see clearly why they oppose projects that bring more residents into their neighborhoods. The reality is that those motives are short sighted and focus on the comfort of the privileged few. I urge you to make the logical decision here; the decision that would have the greatest positive impact on the most St. Paul residents and business owners.

I have known Michelle and Ruben for decades and can attest to their moral characters. They are upstanding citizens who work to dismantle systems of oppression. They treat their tenants and properties with respect. This project aligns with the 2040 plan for St. Paul and it would go against the cities best interests to deny the variance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--
Anne Marie Campbell (she, her, hers)
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