

From owner's rep.

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MCCLAY • ALTON, P.L.L.P.  
ATTORNEYS

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Robert M. McClay  
Brian D. Alton\*

951 Grand Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
Fax: 651/290-2502  
651/290-0301

\*Also Licensed in Wisconsin

July 20, 2011

VIA EMAIL

Amy Spong  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Department of Planning and Economic Development  
25 West Fourth Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: 797 Summit Avenue  
HPC File AHPC 11-1

Dear Ms. Spong:

This letter is submitted on behalf of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church. House of Hope requests that the City Council deny the appeal of the fence permit that was granted to in order to put in a new garden on the church's property. There will be several interested persons at the City Council hearing today to state the reasons why the appeal should be denied.

In addition, the appeal should not be heard as it was not timely. The following timeline shows why the appeal should not have been accepted by the City:

- April 20, 2011 Application for permit filed
- May 5, 2011 Application approved
- May 6, 2011 Permit issued stating work to end about June 16
- May 19, 2011 End of 14 day appeal period allowed by ordinance
- June 30, 2011 Appeal filed

House of Hope acted in accordance with the permit that was issued. The church would be greatly harmed if after the permit was issued and the work was completed, private persons could cause the decision to issue the permit to be reversed.

Based on the foregoing and the testimony to be presented at the public hearing, we respectfully request that the decision to grant the permit be affirmed. Thank you for your consideration. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,  
McClay•Alton, PLLP



Brian D. Alton  
[brian@mcclay-alton.com](mailto:brian@mcclay-alton.com)

BDA:mm

cc: Councilmember Melvin Carter, III  
Peter Warner  
Rev. Joann Lee  
Mary Senkbeil

Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association  
SARPA  
PO Box 40351  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Supports garden  
not fence

13 July, 2011

Amy Spong  
Heritage Preservation Specialist  
City of Saint Paul  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102



Dear Amy,

I am writing this letter to clarify SARPA's position on the new front-yard garden at House of Hope Church, located at 797 Summit Avenue.

House of Hope never formally or informally solicited SARPA's position on the garden. However, one of our members brought it to our attention following an article on the garden in the *Pioneer Press*. SARPA never took a formal position on the garden, but in an exchange of emails regarding the plan, board members were generally personally in favor of the garden. Reasons cited were its innovative use, its addition to the diverse gardens of Summit, and most of all, the fact that it was reversible and non-invasive. Some members contacted the church directly to indicate their support, and the garden was part of the year's Garden Stroll.

Board members, however, was completely unaware of the corral-style fence, which took us by surprise. We feel that no one knew that the fence was part of the plan, and find it extremely historically inappropriate.

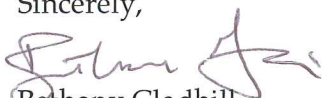
At our June board meeting, the SARPA board unanimously passed the following:

That:

- Although we are in favor of the front-yard garden located at House of Hope,
- We are unanimously opposed to the corral-style fence surrounding the garden. We believe it historically inappropriate, and strongly doubt that it would be allowed in any other (private or public) front yard along Summit Avenue.
- We request that the HPC reverse its approval of the fence, and that its is immediately removed.
- We request that any fence put in its place undergoes thorough HPC design review, and that it is historically appropriate. Suggestions include wrought iron (or similar), or appropriate wood pickets, perhaps with plant screenings.
- If, for whatever reason, an approved historic fence is not possible, we request that the garden is either unfenced or removed completely.

We appreciate the working relationship that SARPA has with the city's HPC, and hope that this relationship and communication only improves!

Sincerely,

  
Bethany Gladhill  
SARPA President

Does not support  
project

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 1:58 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope Garden

>>> Bettyann Pappenfus <[1128\\_laurel@msn.com](mailto:1128_laurel@msn.com)> 7/20/2011 1:01 PM >>>

Please, please, please, make the House of Hope garden go away!!!! What had been a pristine, almost park-like green space in front of one of St. Paul's architectural and historic jewels, now is a true eyesore that belongs on "Green Acres".

Seriously, the garden was going to feed 15 families? What was that estimate based on? A small amount of the produce raised could go to each of 15 families that would provide only a fraction of their weekly produce intake. At best, the garden could supply most of the produce needed for 1 or possibly 2 families of 6 to 8 people each. The notion that people could pick strawberries right off the vine and then eat them right there, who would do that without washing the fruit first?

I admire the House of Hope for wanting to help, but there are so many other ways that members could contribute money and time in the immediate community.

Bettyann Pappenfus  
1128 Laurel

Supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 12:31 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hope

>>> My Nhia Lee <MLee@neighb.org> 7/20/2011 12:18 PM >>>

I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal.

I have worked in the foodshelf for 3 years now. Our participant's health and their eating habits are very important to us as well as their children. With the garden, children are receiving healthier food, locally grown and are learning how to cook these produce, in a healthy manner. It was be really sad to see the garden taken down when it was designed for a really good purpose. With this economy, it is hard for families and children to support themselves financially to buy food. House of Hope is giving hope to our families that when they come to our foodshelf, they are receiving healthy produce that they can feed their children. Children are excited to see the garden because they know that the produce will be going to Neighborhood House, a place where they are participants of the Youth Leadership Program, or that their parents will be receiving the food/produce because they are Food Shelf program participants. This could be a new and beneficial as well as historical piece to the neighborhood and the community. House of Hope and it's garden is reaching out to communities all around. This shows how good communities are willing to help each other. I support the garden!!!

My Nhia Lee  
Basic Needs Coordinator  
[cid:image002.jpg@01CB3D56.E4219900]  
179 Robie Street East  
Saint Paul, MN 55107  
Direct: 651.789.2568  
NH: 651.789.2506  
Email: [mnlee@neighb.org](mailto:mnlee@neighb.org) <<mailto:mnlee@neighb.org>>  
Welcome Center Hours:  
Mon., Wed., and Fri.-9am-12pm  
Other: 651-789-2531

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[cid:image002.jpg@01CB3E25.26980480] <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Neighborhood-House/102499019796511>> [cid:image003.png@01CB3E25.26980480]  
<[http://www.linkedin.com/companies/neighborhood-house\\_2](http://www.linkedin.com/companies/neighborhood-house_2)>  
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Supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 12:31 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please support the House of Hope Community Garden

>>> "Mark Sauerbrey " <[mark.w.sauerbrey@hotmail.com](mailto:mark.w.sauerbrey@hotmail.com)> 7/20/2011 11:39 AM >>>  
Dear Mr. Carter,

I understand there has been an appeal filed again<sup>st</sup> the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal.

As a Board member for Neighborhood House, this garden is a valuable assets to our food shelf by providing our clients with nutritious, life sustaining food.

Please take our clients into consideration and help support this garden and not destroy it.

Thank you,

Mark Sauerbrey  
Board Member  
Neighborhood House  
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 12:31 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Community Garden

>>> Tom Pliner <[tompliner@gmail.com](mailto:tompliner@gmail.com)> 7/20/2011 11:24 AM >>>  
Hello Mr. Carter,

As a previous resident of your ward and current resident of the West Side and as a supporter of community gardens in general, I would like to say the following:

I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal.

Thank you so much,

Tom Pliner

Amy Spong - House of Hope Church garden

Supports garden

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**From:** Hannah Rusch <rusch051@umn.edu>  
**To:** <ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:25 AM  
**Subject:** House of Hope Church garden

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Dear Councilmember ~~Stark~~, *Carter*

I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Rusch  
1810 Ashland Ave.

supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 12:31 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope Church Garden

>>> "Michael McKenna" <[mmckenna1831@comcast.net](mailto:mmckenna1831@comcast.net)> 7/20/2011 10:51 AM >>>  
Dear City Council,

I am writing to give my support to the House of Hope Church Garden. This garden serves several purposes; creating a useful green space, providing fresh food for a non-profit organization whose mission is to help give access to fresh food for people who cannot afford to purchase food, and preserving the historical nature of Summit Avenue.

I urge you to deny this appeal to over turn the permit granted to the House of Hope Church.

Respectfully yours,

Michael McKenna, Esq.

1831 Englewood Ave. Side R

St. Paul, MN 55104

651-775-2112

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelpmckenna>



SUPPORTS garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 12:30 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope Church Garden

>>> Colleen <[leenie9998@gmail.com](mailto:leenie9998@gmail.com)> 7/20/2011 10:48 AM >>>

I am a Ward One resident and a long-time Melvin Carter supporter/voter. I understand there has been an appeal filed against the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal.

Sincerely,

Colleen Mackey

supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:49 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: In support of House of Hope Church garden

>>> sage holben <uppelto@gmail.com> 7/19/2011 12:36 PM >>>

I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Avenue (Melvin Carter's ward). I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal. I realize that the appeal on the City Council agenda addresses the galvanized fence, \*but\*I am concerned that this appeal may actually be a wedge to remove the entire garden.

Please count me in support of the House of Hope Church garden - for the physical food it provides, the visual pleasure to the greater community, and for the very real and needed community building it offers. This, at a time, when we sorely need ALL aspects within our community.

Sage Holben  
705 Fourth Street East  
St. Paul MN 55106

Supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:50 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope community garden

>>> Elizabeth Karre <[elizabethkarre@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethkarre@gmail.com)> 7/19/2011 7:21 PM >>>

Dear Mr. Carter,

I hope House of Hope church can count on your support at the city council meeting on Wednesday concerning our new community garden. This garden already was approved but some Summit residents are protesting it. As you probably know, the produce grown in this garden is going to the W 7th food shelf to cover the days the farmers market doesn't donate. This is unquestionably a good project and has been tastefully designed. If the president can have a vegetable garden on the front lawn of the White House, I think it's good enough for Summit Avenue.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Karre

1267 Hague 55104

3rd generation HOH member

Supports project

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:50 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope garden/fence

>>> <petecardfive@q.com> 7/19/2011 11:16 PM >>>

Hi Melvin,

I am unable to attend the city council meeting Wednesday, but I just wanted to share my thoughts with you. As both a resident of the neighborhood and a member of House of Hope Presbyterian Church who cares deeply about the neighborhood and loves St. Paul, I am very disturbed that a few people can come in after the fact of a project such as this and have things literally uprooted. While I can understand that some don't like the appearance of the fence and garden, if the proper permits were obtained that should be the end of the discussion for this season anyway. When the greater good for the community is threatened by "appearance", I think we have our priorities in the wrong place. There has been a great deal of money, work, hope, concern and love put into this project. If the city council decides that the garden has to come out and replaced with grass to appease a few people, I think we have our priorities wrong. If people want to see changes, a discussion for how things can be done differently next year is fine but not pulling it out at this point.

Thanks for your attention,

Mary Cardinal Peterson

815 Ashland Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

651-222-2909 (home)

651-341-7173 (cell)

Supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:50 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope Community Garden

>>> Julie Oostra <[julie.oostra@gmail.com](mailto:julie.oostra@gmail.com)> 7/20/2011 8:28 AM >>>  
Dear Councilman Carter,

I'm emailing in regards to the issues surrounding the House of Hope Community Garden on Summit Avenue. I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide fresh produce for the Neighborhood House food shelf and engage the community in local foodsourcing. It is a welcome addition to the community, honors the history of this area of Summit Avenue particularly, and is benefiting some of St. Paul's most vulnerable families. I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal which unfortunately seems to be based completely on superficial reasoning.

Respectfully,

Julie Oostra  
[julie.oostra@gmail.com](mailto:julie.oostra@gmail.com)

supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:51 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd:

>>> Sheri Zigan <[SZigan@neighb.org](mailto:SZigan@neighb.org)> 7/20/2011 9:27 AM >>>

Dear, Council Member, I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal."

Sheri Zigan

Supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:51 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: I support the community garden on Summit Avenue

>>> Ellen Zebrun <EZebrun@neighb.org> 7/20/2011 9:48 AM >>>  
Joan, good morning -

I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge Councilmember Carter's support of the garden and denial of the appeal.

Thank you for your time.

Ellen Zebrun

Cultural Proficiency Business Development Manager  
Direct 651.789.2543  
Email [ezebrun@neighb.org](mailto:ezebrun@neighb.org)

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Neighborhood House  
179 Robie Street East \* St. Paul, MN 55107  
Main 651.789.2500 \* Fax 651.789.2501  
[www.neighb.org](http://www.neighb.org)

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SUPPORTS garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:51 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope!

>>> <[nrrn53@yahoo.com](mailto:nrrn53@yahoo.com)> 7/20/2011 9:40 AM >>>  
To our City Leaders,

"I understand there has been an appeal filed again the garden at the House of Hope Church on Summit Ave. I would like to go on record supporting this garden and its mission to provide food for the Neighborhood House food shelf. It is a welcome addition to the community and I urge your support of the garden and denial of the appeal."

Norma C Roberts-Hakizimana  
FSU gardener, STP, MN,  
co-coordinator of GreehHouse Garden/Urban Farm @ Greater Frogtown CDC, 533 N Dale STP

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile



SUPPORTS garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 9:54 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: House of Hope garden

>>> Melvin Carter 7/20/2011 9:53 AM >>>

>>> Patricia Ohmans <[patricia.ohmans@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.ohmans@gmail.com)> 7/19/2011 2:58 PM >>>  
Hi Melvin

I just got an email from Gardening Matters, bringing to our attention the objections being raised about the House of Hope food garden on Summit Avenue.

As you might expect, \*Frogtown Gardens strongly supports the garden at House of Hope,\* which I believe provides fresh produce to the food shelf in Frogtown, as well as to Neighborhood House on the West Side.

The House of Hope garden was designed to be beautiful and appealing, as well as productive; its presence and purpose enhances the beauty of Summit Avenue.

Providing food for the hungry is a central tenet of every faith; House of Hope has found a lovely way to act on this tenet, and should be commended for it, not hassled.

Sincerely,

--

Patricia Ohmans, MPH  
Frogtown Gardens  
651-757-5970 (cell)

supports garden

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 3:50 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: garden at House of Hope church

>>> <[ellishome@comcast.net](mailto:ellishome@comcast.net)> 7/20/2011 3:31 PM >>>

Dear council members,

I am a volunteer at Neighborhood House and am writing you to give your support to keeping the garden at House of Hope Church. It is a beautiful addition to the neighborhood and the donation of the food from the garden supports the food shelf at Neighborhood House. The traditional grass is costly to maintain and does nothing to help needy people. Please give your vote to continuing the garden. Betty Ellis

supports project

**From:** Joan Reidell  
**To:** Amy Spong  
**Date:** 7/20/2011 3:05 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: SARPA's "Appropriate" fence issue complaint to be addressed in City Council proceedings at 5:30PM today

>>> Diane Dodge <[earthma001@gmail.com](mailto:earthma001@gmail.com)> 7/20/2011 2:01 PM >>>  
Council members:

After researching the issue more fully, perhaps a reasonable "win-win" situation for both the Church and SARPA would be for them to jointly hold a fundraiser to pay for an "appropriate" fence around a well respected vegetable garden.

In solidarity,

Diane Dodge

Founding Member, Growing Food and Justice For All Initiative  
Sitting Member, St. Paul Ramsey County Food and Nutrition Commission