Mai Vang

From: Jill Keen <jillakeen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:41 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Demolition of former CVS at Snelling and University

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Hello!

The Midway deserves a new start at the northwest corner of University and Snelling, the demolition of the old CVS and a new small business that actually is part of the neighborhood.

Once upon a time, a quirky little round building welcomed the neighborhood at . Admittedly, it was pretty much unusable--very hot in the sun and impossibly filled with echoes. So its demolition was not a surprise.

The problem is that its replacement--a huge green monolith with no doors or windows on either main street and no set-back from either street instantly made the neighborhood less safe. It was--and still is--the most unwelcoming building I have ever seen. The bus stops became hangouts for people with nowhere else to go and whether they were law-abiding or not, the conglomeration felt unsavory. When I (a white woman, now in my 70s) was walking alone I avoided that corner and when I was taking the bus to the U, I used a different stop. That meant that I no longer went to the other businesses on the corner, including a good used book store, but I really didn't feel safe.

Now that the bad neighbor has moved out, it is time for a new start. First, demolish the horrible building. Maybe put in grass or native plants for a temporary park. And then find a business--preferably not a national chain--that is willing to be part of the neighborhood, to build a smaller, attractive, welcoming building and become part of the solution to the neighborhood's current crime problems.

Sincerely,
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