Mai Vang

From: Natalie Singer <natalie.k.singer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 3:32 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Tear down the CVS!

It is an embarrassment and took many years too long to take any sort of decisive action on this.

The CVS was one part of a cluster of issues that persisted for *years* — issues that the City could have taken at least partial responsibility for — that ultimately made us move from our residence in Midway to another neighborhood entirely.

From summer 2018 to summer 2025, we lived in the duplex next to the parking lots that surround the CVS and run along Sherburne. One of the biggest issues in our seven years at that residence was the blatant open air drug market, precipitated by inept management at Kimball Court, and fueled and encouraged by the neglected site of the CVS.

The neglected, and frankly, totally ignored, corner encouraged a public health emergency, as well as an unsafe space for us to raise our toddler. From 2022 until 2025, we struggled with people breaking into our backyard to use drugs, urinate, and have mental health crises. We found used needles on our front steps and littering the parking lot next to our home. Most frequently, people would camp out on the side of our duplex to use drugs, congregate, sleep and fight.

That CVS is a blight, a symbol of inaction and apathy. The City wasn't able to demonstrate enough care for us to stay in the neighborhood, but it's never too late to demonstrate care for the people who still live there.

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