Mai Vang

From: Melissa G <greene.melissa1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:20 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Cc: Melissa G
Subject: CVS Midway

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern and opinions about what is/will be happening with the abandoned CVS location on University in the Midway neighborhood. Currently, it is an eyesore that only adds to the feeling that the community isn't cared for and is potentially unsafe.

The current state of the building (fences and boarded up windows):
1, Feels like a big middle finger to unhoused folks who are genuinely struggling with issues, largely outside of their control, who are just trying to survive.
2, Adds to the unease many other community members feel and makes the neighborhood feel decrepit and uncared for.

First I need to say: I do not blame those who are unhoused or struggling with mental health/drug addiction for trying to utilize the space for survival. To me, these folks are my neighbors. It is our community and government's responsibility to help them.

So many community members complain about the crime and safety concerns that inevitably come when a community has large numbers of members facing these drug, mental health, or poverty related concerns; however there is so little talk about what we can do to help them deal with the root cause. I believe the majority of people folks commiting the crimes and causing trouble in the neighborhood would stop these behaviors if they were offered proper resources and evidence-based support from practiced qualified professionals.

The CVS location offers a wonderful opportunity to address one of the key concerns of the neighborhood: drug addiction and mental health issues. I would LOVE to see an organization/clinic that offers drug counseling and methadone treatment take over the CVS lot.

This location is ideal for this sort of service; both because of our current community members who would benefit and because of easy access to public transportation. There also is the opportunity to partner with the organizations that already are working on these issues in the neighborhood: Beacon (Kimball Court), EOSIS (Twin Town), Wayward Recovery.... and I'm sure many more.

Transforming a space that is almost explicitly unwelcoming to a space that welcomes people as they are, would be beautiful and is in line with St Paul values.

Regardless, CVS should not be allowed to continue to neglect their property as they are. Midway deserves better and we have a real opportunity to use this "problem" to better our community and better serve those who live here.

I would like to continue to be involved and help as a concerned community member as best I can. Please keep me updated and don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions or requests of support.

Warmly,
Melissa Greene
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