

Hello Council President Lantry,

My January/February business travel has frequently kept me away from St Paul and the happenings on Grand Avenue. Yesterday afternoon I was reading the current issue of the Villager and noticed the article about Cupcake's situation across the street from my office. I was shocked to hear of their difficulties establishing their business on Grand! Have the opponents of this local small business ever been to Cupcake on University Avenue? It is a pleasant, friendly, and professionally-run café. It is not a lively bar or nightclub, but a comfortable gathering spot for the community. As a close neighbor on Grand, I welcome the addition of Cupcake.

In December, I attended Cupcake's evening open house. I met with Grand Avenue neighbors and the Cupcake owner and employees, and we discussed the location drawings/plans. All conversations reflected Kevin VanDeraa's respect for the neighborhood and I left the event feeling good about supporting this small businesses expansion to their 2nd location. I did not hear any opposing views during the evening and there were many people (multigenerational) who attended.

In light of the Central Corridor construction scheduled to begin March 1st directly in front of Cupcake's University Avenue location, I also feel it is important to support the Central Corridor small businesses in any way possible so they can maintain a presence in our community. Cupcake's second location on Grand Avenue may help them bridge the Central Corridor construction inconveniences and provide our community with another prosperous small business.

It would be a shame to continue to have the vacant store front when we have a wonderful small business wanting to be part of our Summit Hill community.

Kind regards,
Susan

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