

City Council Members -

You have before you on June 20th two issues that represent the need for your leadership in protecting the opportunity for families to live in a neighborhood. Specifically, the area outlined in the ordinance area has steadily fallen and continues to fall out of balance as a place where students, families and other residents can all live. It is critical that you support both the ordinance to restrict student density in the ordinance area as well as the appeal to restrict the scale/size of the de facto dormitory as currently proposed on 2124 Grand Avenue.

16 years ago last month, my wife and I purchased our home on 2095 Lincoln Avenue which is one block directly south of Grand Avenue and between Cretin and Cleveland Avenues. When we moved into our house, our block had a rich history of long term residents who had raised families in the 70's and 80's. Long term residents shared with us that during their years many a family had been raised on the block and at its high point upwards of 50 kids on our block alone. Today, our block has 6 school aged children. On its current trajectory, the only people who will want to live on our blocks are students due to families being squeezed out of our neighborhood.

Our block is not isolated and is representative of the erosion that has occurred over the years in which residences occupied by long term residents have been replaced by more transitory student housing. In the last few years alone, we have seen the 2 properties directly west of our house (2099 Lincoln and 2103 Lincoln) as well as the house kiddy corner from our house (2100 Lincoln) be sold from older owners to families of students occupying the houses or a landlord renting the house out to students. With these changes, we have directly experienced much of what you have likely heard and seen documented around noise, inappropriate behavior, and damage to our personal property which I will not dwell on other than to say these are real nuisances/disruptions and not petty complaints.

I want to clearly state that my support of the ordinance to restrict student density and appeal to restrict the scale of the 2124 development is about trying to maintain a degree of balance for our neighborhood where families, students, and other residents can have a respectful coexistence as a community. I fully understand and accept that moving adjacent to a college brings the possibility that we will occasionally run into noise/nuisance behavior. At the same time, I need you as an elected city official to look at the facts and understand that our area is in need of your support to be able to maintain a balance in our neighborhood so students, families and other residents all have a place to live. I absolutely believe both these measures will be effective helping to stabilize the situation in our neighborhood. I also believe that without support for the ordinance and appeal on 2124 Grand, we will become an area that permanently falls out of balance with families being squeezed out.

Respectfully,

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