

Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 12:01 AM

To: ward1-7@stpaul.gov; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; Beach, Tom (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Student occupied dwelling in Merriam Park

Mimi Haddad & Dale Halladay, Residents of Merriam Park
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Tom Beach, DSI
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Russ Stark, Ward 4
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Saint Paul City Council Members
ward1-7@stpaul.gov

Dear Tom Beach, Russ Stark and Saint Paul City Council Members,

My husband and I purchased our home on Dayton Ave in 2009 only after spending much time walking the streets, at all times during the week and weekends. We were concerned about safety because of so many student occupied dwellings, though we believed the situation was manageable. Since purchasing our home, we noticed an increase in traffic, noise, break ins, flagrant abuse of traffic regulations and trash (such as bottles, cans and furniture) left on lawns, sidewalks and alleys near student occupied dwellings.

The speeding and flagrant disregard of stop signs and speed limits on streets and alleys is our greatest concern. We are very worried for the safety of pedestrians and bikers, especially elderly, students and children because of the disregard of traffic laws by university students. We are half a block from Saint Marks and we watch students walk to school not only during the week but also on weekends, and often they walk from many blocks away. It is tragic to realize that the abuse of traffic from university students places them at risk. My husband and I have also made it a practice to photograph trash left on streets, alleys, lawns and sidewalks outside student occupied dwellings. These behaviors are hazardous for neighbors and also for other students.

Ultimately, the burden of managing the risks presented by university students and their consistent abuse of traffic laws falls on the neighbors, not the university which benefits the most from their numbers. To place this responsibility on neighbors, rather than the university is confusing to us all. We have no recourse with students as a university clearly does. A dorm or apartment on Grand and Finn, and an increased number of student

occupied dwellings in our neighborhood places those with the least power at the greatest risk, especially those who are vulnerable, like other youth and the elderly.

I ask you to vote for the common good! Do NOT build a student dorm on Grand and Finn. Do NOT increase the number of student occupied dwellings anywhere but on the campus of Saint Thomas itself. Require the University to build a dorm on their own property where they are the best party to manage effectively the consequences for which they gain the greatest benefit.

Thank you for your concern for us all.

Sincerely,

Mimi Haddad and Dale Halladay