

From: Sue Meiske
Sent: 6/17/12 10:38 PM
Subject: re; Proposed Apartment/Dorm Building on Grand and Finn

Councilman Stark, Councilman Tolbert, Mr. Beach, and Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I am e-mailing you in regard to the proposed 20 unit, 80 person capacity apartment proposal on Grand and Finn.

I have many great concerns regarding this proposed building in our neighborhood and the entire Mac Groveland area.

First, the size of the proposed building. The plan is for a 5 story building. To date, as I drive or walk down the streets of Grand Avenue from Cretin Avenue to Dale Street, I do not see a building of this height. Does this building really belong in the landscape of this street? Although there are not any variances on this street, this building will not

harmonize with the other buildings that are at maximum 4 stories, nor with the decor of the rest of the area.

Secondly, and a primary concern for myself and my neighbors is what the impact will be of these additional 80 occupants to space and parking in the neighborhood. This area is already at capacity parking with those that live and rent in this area. It was stated that 40 parking spots would be made available underground. Where will others go for parking? On the already crowded permit streets?

I also feel that this will be the first of many proposals that will allow St. Thomas to chip away even more at our neighborhood.

While I realize that Mr. Merry's firm is not part of St. Thomas, he is an alum which makes me and many others that live in this area wonder what the University has "up it's sleeve" for future growth. What is in store

for my street, Lincoln Avenue? I shudder at this thought.

I have lived in the Macalester Groveland/ Highland area for over 20 years and have witnessed St. Thomas push the limits to what it can achieve by itself and other outside means that are willing and available.

My neighbors and I have made an investment in our families, our homes, and our city. It disheartens me that the city of St. Paul is considering such a building that will begin to change the character and beauty of this gem of a neighborhood.

Respectfully yours,

Susan A. Meiske
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