

Dear Mayor Coleman,

You took office as Mayor of St. Paul at about the same time I moved into the MarketHouse Lofts in Lowertown in 2005. My sister lives in Highland and my dad grew up on West 7th where the Midas station currently resides – so the love of St. Paul runs in my family. I love living in downtown St. Paul and being able to walk to the Farmer's Market, bike along the Mississippi River and walk through the city parks with my dog. However, in the past two months, my neighbors and I are all feeling like the city doesn't care about us and that it's going down the wrong road with the proposed ballpark plans. I will no longer be able to say I love St. Paul if you do not help us and listen to our concerns.

I am appealing to you now because Lowertown residents and commercial property owners NEED YOUR HELP!!! We need to do something NOW to urgently re-assess the proposed ballpark plans. There is still time and I know many concerned citizens are writing to you in these final days because it is just coming to light how dire the situation really is. Please pause the project and listen to our concerns and our alternative before moving ahead and demolishing the Gillette Building.

As an owner at MarketHouse, I also own a parking spot across the street from my building. If a dedicated parking spot within a block radius from my building was not part of owning my loft in Lowertown, there is no way my dad would have let me, a single woman, move into the building. Now, with the proposed ballpark plans, my parking space is being taken away – I've been served papers and as of June 1, 2013, I have nowhere to park. The closest lot available is at the Union Depot and this is several blocks away. This is not ok. Would you want your daughter to have to walk 15 minutes from her car to her home carrying a laptop, purse and maybe a bag of groceries at 10 p.m.? With all due respect, it would be like you purchasing your home with a garage, and then eight years later your garage is taken away from you and you're told that you and your family will now have to park down the street 4 blocks away. I don't think your family would think that's ok and I don't think you'd be able to sell your house with no parking.

I attended a community meeting on Wednesday night and heard from several smart, passionate and concerned residents and business owners. We are proposing an alternative to the current plans for the ballpark and we need our voice to be heard. The new plan calls for nearly 600 parking spaces as part of the year-round ballpark site. These would be across the street from MarketHouse and a safe distance for tenants of surrounding commercial buildings. (Without parking, these commercial building owners will no doubt lose their tenants and their buildings will be vacant.) Council member Dave Thune attended the meeting and supports the new plan.

If we continue on the path that we are taking without you saying "STOP!" we will no longer be able to call St. Paul "The Most Livable City in America" – in fact, it will be quite the opposite!

Thank you for your time. I look forward to a meeting with you and concerned citizens as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lynn K. Brown