

Dear Mr. Dermody,

My husband and I are new owners at 4xx Duke St. making us neighbors of the vacant building at 543 James Ave.

I had an opportunity to talk with Todd Jones who has a proposal currently under review by the city council and planning committee to use the property as a storage facility. We have taken time to review information from Todd regarding his business plan and existing facilities, walk around the building to “see for ourselves”, and look at the history of the property.

We would like to go on record as supporting the proposed Premier Storage Application for the following reasons.

1. Immediate return of the property to the tax rolls without subsidies or public financing.
2. Minimal increase of noise and traffic with use of the building for storage as planned.
3. Improvement in physical appearance/maintenance of the building and surrounding grounds in keeping with a very tidy and well-kept neighborhood.

It appears there is considerable support in the city, from the developer of the Artist Lofts and from the neighbors for the current proposal. The other ideas proposed are currently only ideas. As proposed I am not sure they would be a good fit for the building or for the neighborhood. Clearly they would have a long road to travel before being implemented.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia Harty
Mark Holte
4xx Duke St.
St. Paul, MN 55102