

Dear Council Member Lantry and staff,

We are familiar with the owners of the Salt Cellar and our daughter is waiting to start her new job there. That is our self-interest to be very honest, but that said I must say how disturbing it is to me that:

1) City staff have allowed this to get to this point without doing their due diligence. It seems like they just hoped it would work out and have helped create a nightmare for these respectable hard working business owners.

2) That fellow business owners - who have huge competing self-interests, would hold sufficient power to drag out this appeal process. Shame on John Rupp and others. Ironically, he was all for parking variances when it came to his hotel property on Summit Avenue. I will not visit his business or other businesses in the area who are trying to drive this new restaurant under. I have shared this with neighbors and friends and they are also cancelling their plans to support these self-serving owners. They should tell it like it is - the Salt Cellar has a parking solution and clearly the whole neighborhood has parking problems. This one new business should not bear the brunt of the issue, especially when they were given the go ahead with this space and literally invested life savings. It is holding dozens of livelihoods hostage and St. Paul should be embarrassed. I care deeply about this city and hate to see this happening. It is unprincipled and wrong.

Please do all that you can to make this situation right and treat the new business owners fairly.

Sincerely,
Laurie Possin

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