

Councilman Finney

This week the Council will consider an appeal of a decision by the Board of Zoning appeals regarding 2146 Grand. I ask for your vote in favor of the residents' appeal of the BZA decision.

As I understand the facts of the matter, I am surprised that the issue has gone this far. Specifically:

- \* the owner's request for variance was rejected by city staff on 5 of 6 criteria;
- \* the owner's excuse is that he was unaware of the regulation, a technically illegitimate argument and one that flies in the face of multiple notices sent to him by the City and UST;
- \* the net result of granting the variance cuts the heart out of the ordinance managing student rental density, on which the neighborhood has come to depend;
- \* renting to students is a choice on the landlord's part, making him subject to relevant sections of the Code as a matter of his own doing.

Just as a matter of civic governance, it is hard for me to imagine granting such a weakly argued and devastating exception to an important ordinance. Would granting the variance mean that I am exempt from ordinances of which I claim ignorance? If so, good luck governing this place!

Please vote for the citizens' appeal of the BZA decision on 2146 Grand.

Thank you.

Joel Clemmer  
Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105