

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 4:01 PM
To: 'David Wheaton'
Subject: RE: 1659 Grand Avenue

Mr. Wheaton,

Thank you for your email. It will be attached to the record for Council consideration.

Sincerely, Marcia Moermond

From: David Wheaton [<mailto:wheaton@macalester.edu>]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 2:14 PM
To: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)
Subject: 1659 Grand Avenue

Dear Ms. Moermond:

I am writing to you in my role as the Vice President of Administration and Finance at Macalester College. In this capacity, issues related to safety and security are within my scope of responsibility. I would like to express the College's concern about the advisory recommendation passed at yesterday's Heritage Preservation Committee meeting regarding the property located at 1659 Grand Avenue in St. Paul.

As we have communicated previously, we have long been concerned about the safety issues related to that property because we have many students living very close to that particular parcel. As you know, the current condition of the building presents fire and security risks to anyone living or working nearby. We fear that a successful designation as a historic building would make these conditions permanent due to the substantial costs of repairing and upgrading the property both to meet city codes and to meet the expectations of the HPC. The current owners have not shown any inclination to make even basic improvements, and the economics of making the necessary improvements would strongly discourage any potential owner from acquiring the property because they would be subject to the expectations and limitations that flow from the historic designation.

We would strongly encourage you to reject the HPC advisory recommendation.

Sincerely,

David Wheaton

MACALESTER
COLLEGE



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