

July 20, 2016

To the members of the Saint Paul City Council

As a resident of Saint Paul, I wish to add my voice to those citizens in the city who do not support permitting external ADUs here. I am one of those pesky people in North Saint Anthony Park, who, much to the bemusement of the city's representatives, feels strongly enough about the ADU issue to make my opinion known even though we are told this will have no effect on North Saint Anthony Park but only on the part of South Saint Anthony Park that is within one-half mile of the Creative Enterprise Zone. However, the government of Saint Paul made it clear at a City Council meeting I attended that the proposed zoning change currently presented as affecting a restricted area will eventually be deemed good for the entire city.

Councilman Stark and other City Council members have received a report from a Task Force set up by our community that examined the pros and cons of ADUs. The Task Force's conclusion was that external ADUs were not a good option but that internal ADUs should be given an opportunity to prove their value. This was a compromise on the part of the members of the Task Force. I ask that the City respect and consider the reasoning behind this compromise.

I have heard Jamie Reidel's presentation on ADUs. Rather than being a balanced view of ADUs, it was a sales pitch for them. I would like an honest disclosure about the many problems that the City, with its resources already stressed, can expect to face with the responsibility of oversight and enforcement of these structures. During several discussions, it was noted that building external ADUs would be very expensive and that not very many would be built. Then why are they being considered as viable solutions to increasing density and reducing our carbon footprint?

When it was first proposed that ADUs be allowed in the City I was adamantly against the whole idea. After learning more, I feel I can compromise and support the conclusion of the Saint Anthony Park Task Force report, internal ADUs with restrictions and oversight are acceptable, external ADUs are not. I ask the members of the City Council to make the same compromise.

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