Payne-Phalen
DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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January 31, 2017

Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: 312 Wheelock Parkway Public Hearing

To City Council Members:

District Five supports this homeowner's variance application because we feel that the underlying zoning problem was unfairly brought to light. Mr. Kong has been making use of the parking in question for 10 years or more without ever having heard from the City that it was a problem. We have seen this same sort of issue come up in several recent cases, where the City discovered zoning violations during street construction projects. We believe that the City needs to work with residents to arrive at solutions which are fair to all concerned. Specifically, we propose that the City continue to allow parking uses which have been in existence for decades until the property is conveyed to a new owner. This would allow a new property owner to make the required changes with full knowledge of the problem at the time they acquire the property. To do otherwise creates an unfair situation for the resident. We believe that this is ultimately an equity issue, since many residents in our District are less likely to have discovered these problems when they moved in to their houses by virtue of being working class, or immigrants or refugees, or otherwise disadvantaged.

Sincerely,

Eric Foster
p.p. Robin R Herbey
Eric Foster, Board President

cc: Gnia Kong
EF/rrh