**Graybar, Matthew (CI-StPaul)** Support

**From:** John Farrell <bangboom2014@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 12:56 PM
**To:** Graybar, Matthew (CI-StPaul)
**Subject:** File# 19-097169 - Vang - 35 Winthrop St. N.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Hello Matt,
I'm writing to express support for my neighbor's application for a variance from the parking regulations that prohibit off-street parking spaces within the front yard. My wife and I attended the Zoning Board meeting at 3:00 PM yesterday in Room 330 of the Courthouse but this item was not on the agenda, contrary to the Public Hearing Notice we received dated November 7, 2019. Se we decided to send you our supporting comments via email.

Mr. Vang and his family are wonderful neighbors; they take great care of their property. We feel lucky to have such responsible homeowners on our block.

Regarding the parking pad already installed, it is nicely landscaped, with the view of the additional parking space shrouded by tall bushes when viewed from the street. The parking pad did not decrease the amount of curb space in front of the home as it curves back to the driveway at a point prior to the existing city sidewalk. It looks to have been professionally installed concrete, matching the existing concrete driveway. It looks like it belongs in this unique neighborhood.

I understand homeowners need to secure approval prior to making changes. I would ask the city to extend grace to Mr. Vang and his family, refraining from levying any additional costs beyond those associated with a permit.

Thank you for making note of our comments supporting this variance. You are welcome to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Shepherd
John D. Farrell
21 Winthrop St N
Saint Paul, MN 55119
612-281-1982
bangboom2014@gmail.com

Support

November 27, 2019

To: Matthew Graybar
Department of Safety and Inspections
City of Saint Paul

RE: Zoning Appeal File #: 19-097169
Parking Space within Front Yard at 35 Winthrop St N.

People enjoy the architectural and landscaping variety on Winthrop St. N. Each lot is different, but visually pleasing. Two photos are included showing parking space within the Front Yard on Winthrop St. N.

We have no objections to the new concrete at 35 Winthrop St N.

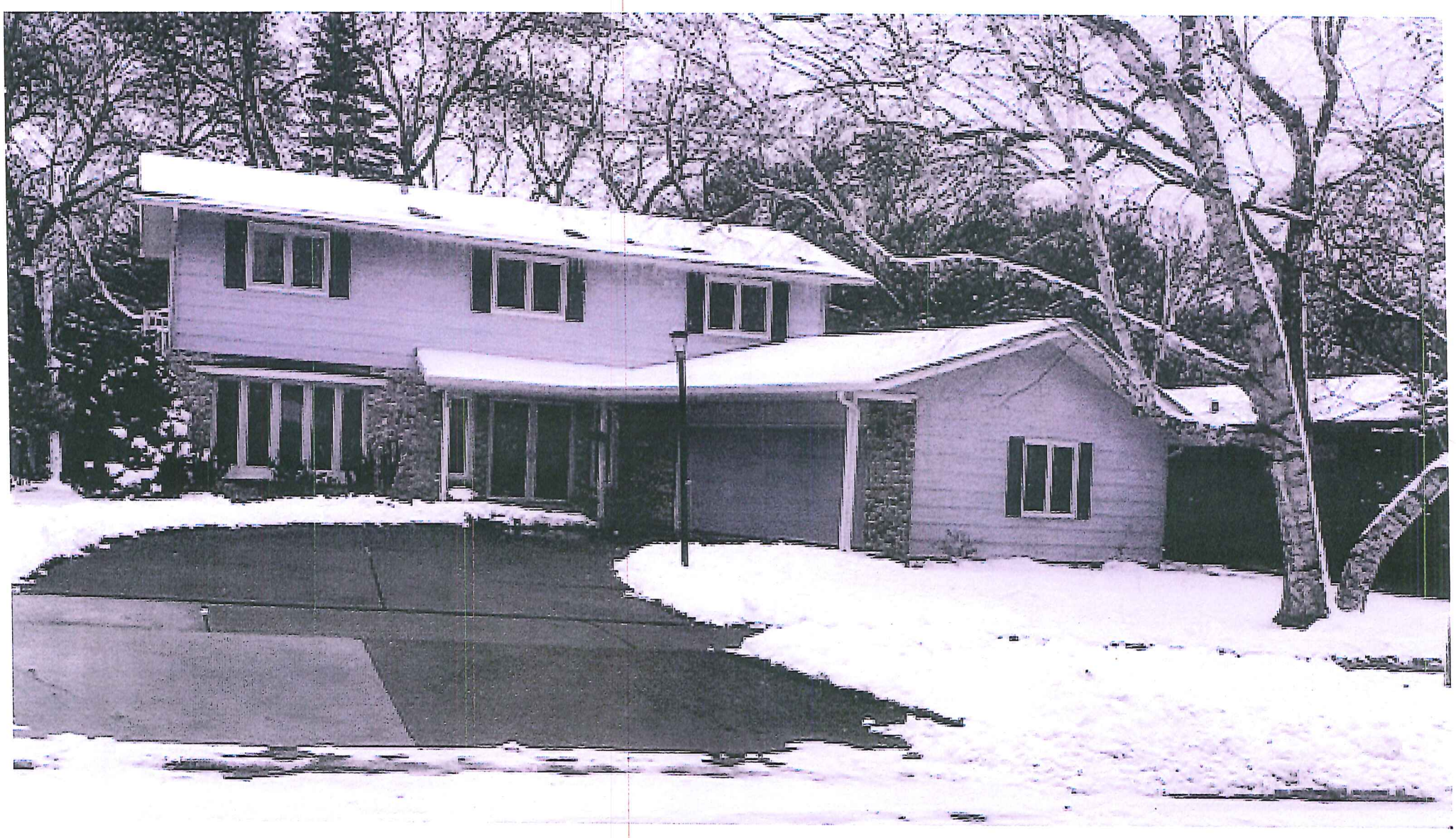
1. The dwelling is two stories with a two-door entrance and four pillars along the front. The new concrete blends in with the building and landscaping.
2. The new concrete is sloped towards the street drain between 27 and 35 Winthrop St N. No change in drainage has been noticed.
3. The concrete work is excellent quality completed by a craftsman.
4. We prefer this parking solution during snow emergencies.

Sincerely,

Colleen M Osborne, Pers. Rep.

Colleen Osborne,
Personal Representative for
The Estate of Phyllis E. Osborne
Owner of 27 Winthrop St N.
St Paul, MN 55119

Cc. Chue Vang



**Graybar, Matthew (CI-StPaul)** Oppose

**From:** Gidley, Paul <PGIDLEY@amfam.com>
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 2:20 PM
**To:** Graybar, Matthew (CI-StPaul)
**Subject:** driveway

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated outside our organization.

Matthew,
Concerning File # 19-097169. The home at 35 Winthrop St N, Saint Paul, MN 55119 and the paved parking pad.
I am sure this is a tough decision for neighbors because it is tough to tell him to tear it up after it has been built. But, are we setting a precedence for the future that people will do it without asking and then be allowed to keep it. I would not like to see me neighbors start to pave their front yards. I do not believe this is appropriate for the neighborhood.
Thank you,
Paul J Gidley

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Oppose

November 12, 2019

Mr. Matthew Graybar
City of Saint Paul
Department of Safety and Inspections
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806

Re: File #19-097169 / Property Address: 35 Winthrop St.N., St. Paul, MN

Dear Mr. Graybar,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments to your office, prior to the Board of Zoning Appeals Public Hearing, regarding the above File # on Monday, November 18, 2019. Being unable to attend, we wish to submit the following statements...

Per the Public Hearing Notice received recently from your office, the property owner at 35 Winthrop St.N. decided to pave a sizeable portion of his front yard as a parking pad, in addition to the double wide driveway which already exists here. As you know, parking cars in a required front yard is a violation of St. Paul Zoning Regulations!

This newly paved parking pad in the front yard is a complete disregard for zoning regulations, decreases property values of other nearby homes on this well-kept street and is

an eyesore for neighborhood residents.

There was no hardship which necessitated paving a sizeable portion of the existing front lawn at this address, nor should a hardship prevent the City from directing its removal. This home already has an existing double-wide concrete driveway with adequate off-street parking. Additional parking in the front yard is not necessary.

A zoning variance should not be granted, just because of a homeowners ignorance of zoning regulations, or a willful disregard to comply with zoning requirements. Asking for forgiveness, after the fact is no excuse and sets a poor future precedent for other neighborly homes, as well as homes throughout St. Paul, if this paved front yard is allowed to remain.

In summary, the sentiments of several property owners on Winthrop St. N. is shared, when respectfully asking the City of St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals to deny a variance allowing a paved parking pad in the front yard of the residence at 35 Winthrop St. N. and direct removal of this paved parking pad, as well as restoration of the required front yard.

Thank you!

A Concerned St. Paul citizen and Winthrop St. N. resident.