

**From:** Patti Hade <[pattihade@gmail.com](mailto:pattihade@gmail.com)>

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**To:** Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul) <[chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <[Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <[Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <[Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <[Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Re: 1493 Highland Parkway, 10/28/2020 agenda item

Dear Council member~

First, I want you to know that I appreciate you and the council's efforts during these extraordinary times.

Secondly, I am requesting that you please take the time to read the many "attachments" to this file (1493 Highland Parkway) prior to the City Council meeting on 10/28/2020.

I think that, after you peruse the attachments, you may agree that the implication made by both the owner/builder applicant (for the approval of the new construction) and the City Zoning official (Matt Graybar) that there are only "a few" neighbors that are against the approval is INACCURATE. Out of 27 people that signed the petition, 22 are in close proximity to this address (on the same block/alley) and one lives on the same alley but at the end of that block (corner of Pascal and Eleanor).

The word "transparency" is recurring throughout the documents. I think that it would be safe to say that the neighbors feel like Michael Buelow has not been transparent. In fact, quite frankly, the opposite. He is in the construction business and should know the rules/regulations/procedures that are required for a "tear-down" or 'new construction". He continued with the process of tearing down the old buildings (house and garage) improperly and now has a "clean slate" to work with. With this being the case, he should, theoretically, be able to make the new construction fit the lot WITHOUT necessitating variances and to keep within the "essential character of the surrounding area".

Again, please take the time to read the attachments. It will definitely take a significant amount of your time (which I am sure you do not have a lot of), but I do think that you will have a better sense of how the neighbors are feeling.

Highland Park is a wonderful area of the grand city of St. Paul and we welcome neighbors with "open arms" who are trustworthy, moral and have the best interests of the neighborhood at heart.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

Patti Hade  
1512 Eleanor Avenue  
St. Paul, Mn. 55116