

February 25, 2021

Re: Zoning occupancy change to 6 people

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for your service to the people of St. Paul. I would like to address the proposed occupancy change which includes unrelated individuals such as students and other groups including group homes residences.

We have lived in St. Paul since 1974. We have lived through many changes from at home moms and larger families, family homes sold for student rentals etc. Since we live in a college area, we know all the negative impacts from groups of students living in family homes. We have attended endless neighborhood meetings and meetings with many city councils, and our neighborhood has benefited from the current zoning with the additional space required between student rentals. For many years we struggled with whether to leave St. Paul as many of our neighbors did. We questioned how much to invest in improvements in a home in St. Paul. The last few years with the change in distance between student rentals, we are seeing homes returning to family occupancy. This has been a wonderful change and we thank all who supported it.

If occupancy is increased for students, this will be lost again. More crowding in the homes, more people to party, more cars on the streets with many only 40 foot lots. The liveability of St. Paul near colleges will go backwards. It appears there is no reason to include student residence increases in this zoning change. This proposal is not good for every situation.

We would also like to comment on the impact this could have on other communal living groups. Group homes for individuals with disabilities now have 4 people plus staff in traditional family homes. We know from personal experience this number works in these homes. There is no reason for this zoning issue to involve homes for special needs that are complex and monitored by other agencies. Again this proposal is not good for every situation and needs to limit its scope.

Therefore we are asking you to oppose any part of this zoning change that which would affect groups of individuals such as students and group homes for disabled individuals. We have personal experience with each of these and they should not grouped into this zoning change. Thank you.

Loretta and Jim Nuessle