

## Wade, Michael (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Pereira, Luis (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 8:35 AM  
**To:** Wade, Michael (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** FW: Upcoming Student Housing Ordinance Vote

Fyi if I didn't forward...

-----Original Message-----

From: Missy McDonald <missymcdonald@centurylink.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:48 PM  
To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Pereira, Luis (CI-StPaul) <Luis.Pereira@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Cc: Michael McDonald <michael.mcdonald@suez.com>  
Subject: Upcoming Student Housing Ordinance Vote

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

Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council.

I have lived in my home at 1936 Selby Avenue for 27 years. Along with many others in my neighborhood, I worked very hard to have the last student housing ordinance passed which stipulates that only four unrelated people can share a rental residence and that rental properties have to be a mandated distance apart from each other. The reason that this was - and still is - of paramount importance is because it has kept our community - which was on the tipping point of becoming the next Dinkytown - in balance.

Prior to that, it felt like we were living in the Wild West, with the "luxury" of paying taxes to do so. All the while, we were being subjected, on a regular basis, to the debris of living near a college campus and the all-night wanderings from one rental "party house" to the next. FOR YEARS we endured loud parties, loud music, drunken fights, having our lawn vomited and urinated on, a regular stream of red solo cup and food garbage being left on our boulevard and in our street, loud, foul language at all hours of the night, college students passing out in the yards of our neighborhood, flags and political signs being stolen and even, the stealing of children's' toys from front yards and porches.

After the last ordinance was passed, a wealthy parent from a Minneapolis suburb purchased the house next door to us for his daughter – a then-college-freshman at the University of St. Thomas. To get around the ordinance, he transferred the house ownership to his daughter and she proceeded to house 3-4 of her UST besties for the next 5 years. It was a nightmare beyond description and many calls to the St. Paul Police Department and the University of St. Thomas resulted only in momentary pauses in the disturbances. Our every-day reality became a waiting game until this neighbor was graduated and sold the house.

In the last few years we have witnessed the construction of apartment buildings on Marshall and Moore, Grand and Cleveland, Grand and Finn and now Marshall and Finn along with two properties at Snelling and Selby. UST has finally built more student housing and will require students to live on campus for the first two years of attendance. In light of this, changing the student housing ordinance to accommodate for even more occupants - a proposal of a 50% increase in density - seems unnecessary and frankly, ridiculous. We still have a rental property on our block that is a physical eyesore and requires the regular oversight of the University of St. Thomas to make sure that the number of student

occupants remains at four and that they are held accountable for their behavior. Before UST became involved, there were often more than four occupants and the parties and bad behavior were routine. This once-beautiful home, which was a jewel in our neighborhood, is now a run-down, dirty and ill-kept slum house owned by a man in North Dakota who cares nothing for the community in which he owns property.

At some point, home owners must matter. We pay dearly in taxes to live in a neighborhood and city we love, invest in the beautification of our homes and properties and help grow life and community here. WE DESERVE TO MATTER! We're here for the long-run and not just for a couple of passing years. This is how St. Paul will remain vibrant and viable and a desirable place for people to live.

I'm pleading with you, to keep the student housing ordinance intact in its current form in order to maintain the balance that was needed and is working for everyone.

Sincerely,

Missy McDonald and Michael McDonald  
1936 Selby Avenue  
Saint Paul  
651-399-1469