

The impact of upcoming vote on zoning code

Chris Parker <parke120@umn.edu>

Mon 3/1/2021 5:08 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

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

Dear Council member Thao,

I understand that you're about to vote on a proposal to change the zoning code in a manner that will ultimately allow up to six students to live in a student rental dwelling.

I'm very much in favor of improving housing opportunities for non-traditional households. But this change would also allow landlords to squeeze more students into student housing. The Student Housing Overlay District has been a wonderful thing for our neighborhood, and this change would weaken it.

Landlords could make more money renting to six individual students than they would if renting to a nontraditional family, so in student housing areas, the change wouldn't have the hoped-for effect, and would in fact lower the quality of life, and the desirability of owning a home in the neighborhood.

Which brings up a larger point, one that this specific proposal can't fully cover, but it's worth stating: I hope that all your decisions encourage home ownership for households of all sorts, rather than rental housing.

Unless you've lived next to a St. Thomas party house, or several of those, you can't fully appreciate what a one-issue voter it can make of you. Please don't create a step backward for our neighborhood.

Chris Parker
2197 Selby Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104