

Keep the student housing overlay district, no increase from 4 to 6 students!

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

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

Hello Council Member:

I have been a resident of St Paul for seventeen years, have three school aged children and have lived in two different areas of St Paul (Lincoln Ave and Portland Ave) with a high density of University of St Thomas students. I find the student rental ordinance that was instituted by former council member, Russ Stark, to be a life-line to the neighborhood. Undergraduate college students who rent housing for 1-2 years are not the kind of nontraditional family unit that the study was meant to address, and there is arguably no-good reason to apply the broader zoning change to student rentals within the Student Housing Overlay District.

The livability of our neighborhood is already questionable. We have two rentals and one student-owned rental on our short block. We hear late-night parties and day-time parties with obscene language being used while our children are playing outside. We have parking and trash issues. The homes with students are not as well kept as owner occupied homes (sidewalks are not cleared of snow, there is minimal landscaping and upkeep issues). Students have a transient nature and are not interested in becoming a part of our neighborhood. We have invited the students to join us for National Night Out and neighborhood gatherings with students declining to attend.

My family needs and wants community in our neighborhood. Adding additional students further takes away from the livability of our neighborhood and removes the safety net put in place in 2012. Had I known before we moved to Portland Ave that students would be allowed to increase in our neighborhood, I would have moved to the suburbs long ago. Please help to keep this neighborhood from having to deal with more of the above problems.

Sincerely,
Christine Johnson
1979 Portland Ave