To the St Paul City Council regarding the proposed development at Marshall and Cleveland Avenues

I have watched with growing concern as my neighborhood changes.

The quality of life in St. Paul has kept middle class people living in the center city of St. Paul. If we allow our neighborhoods to change from a comfortable place to live and raise our children and know our neighbors, to concrete canyons of apartments, as we have seen in Minneapolis (I think of Uptown, which used to be a charming place whose charm has now been wrecked by development), then we lose the people who are central to creating a stable and desirable neighborhood.

I see this happening in the rapid development of Marshall Ave. We are now facing the third apartment building to go up between Fairview and Cretin - note that is 6 blocks - in the last three years. And the most recent ones are way out of proportion to the neighborhood.

I understand that city zoning laws are created with thoughtfulness, with the goal of preserving the quality of life in the neighborhoods of what has been our wonderful city. And I understand that the city council is put under tremendous pressure from developers who see their chance to make money by getting that zoning waived for their project.

I think your responsibility is to the citizens of the city and therefore is to approve development that is going to fit into the area, by observing these zoning rules.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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