

**From:** [Elysia Gallo](#)  
**To:** [Butler, Sonja \(CI-StPaul\)](#); [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [\\*CI-StPaul PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on ZF#21-269-061 695 Grand CUP and variances  
**Date:** Monday, July 12, 2021 3:42:37 PM

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Dear Decision Makers of Saint Paul,

I oppose the 695 Grand Development project. I live nearby on Osceola Avenue (where I have been renting for 16 years) and frequently walk all up and down Grand Avenue to shop and eat at my favorite restaurants, from Shish to Tavern on Grand and many places in between.

What we love about our neighborhood is its historic charm. It feels like the heart of Saint Paul, not just for its business district, but for the grandeur of the brownstones and Victorian mansions that extend far beyond just Summit Avenue. The history of Saint Paul and the state of Minnesota was woven among its streets and is palpable here. It is walkable, pleasant, and charming.

We do NOT want Grand Avenue to become a copycat of University or Snelling. We do not want to see a building take up more space than it is allowed by existing zoning codes and the East Grand Avenue Overlay. We want more mixed-use housing (specifically: affordable housing that is in sync with the neighborhood) but the design as proposed is too big and too tall.

If you grant a variance to this project, many more will follow, until the look and feel of our neighborhood is eroded. It is important to not make exceptions as this will create a dangerous precedent.

Please preserve historic Summit Hill by insisting that the developer work within the carefully thought-out and planned bounds. Ask the developers to follow existing zoning codes and the Overlay.

The neighborhood is overwhelmingly opposed – do you represent and work for us, or do you represent and work for rich developers? We will know your stance soon enough; please don't disappoint us.

Thank you,

Elysia Gallo

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