

**From:** [AJ Jones](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** VOTE NO: 695 Grand Rezoning File 21-271-810  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021 5:48:39 PM

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City Councillors

Please VOTE NO on the Dixies project because it will hurt employees, and charge rents that no one who currently works or lives on Grand can afford. It is ugly and too big, and y'all shouldn't give variances and rewrite all the rules so rich people can get richer. They can do that just fine without y'all raising the height limits just for them.

I am sending the email I wrote before -- as y'all can read, my comments were not included in the public record. This ain't right. As I wrote before, I can't give out my full data for fear of reprisal. It could be linked to my friend who used to work at Dixies--I'm putting that email in here too. I guess y'all got my email address, but I think it won't get back to my friend. I originally wrote for my friend, but now I'm writing for me. Something ain't right about this process.

City council, y'all got to stand up for St Paul. Vote no on this rezoning.

AJ Jones

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** \*CI-StPaul\_PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary <[PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 1:10 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Oppose Dixies/695 Grand  
**To:** AJ Jones <[jonesaj090@gmail.com](mailto:jonesaj090@gmail.com)>

Hi -

If you would like this email entered into public record I will need an address to be included.  
Thank you.

Samantha Langer

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**From:** AJ Jones <[jonesaj090@gmail.com](mailto:jonesaj090@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary <[PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Oppose Dixies/695 Grand

I had sent an email against this project to the neighborhood committee, Summit Hill, voicing concerns of Grand Avenue employees. Representing people in Grand, who work late hours and need parking for safety, and I won't be able to afford these overpriced new apartments.

I saw that my email was included and I read a whole bunch of emails from a whole bunch of people.

There were way more people who were against this proposal than were for it. By a lot.

I don't understand how a neighborhood group can vote against what the majority of people who live and work and shop in the area wrote in? Doesn't seem democratic to me.

I hope that this committee will see how bad this project will be for Grand Avenue. The people who know and work and live and care about it have wrote in, y'all should listen.

AJ Jones

St Paul

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **AJ Jones** <[jonesaj090@gmail.com](mailto:jonesaj090@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Jun 9, 2021 at 12:41 PM

Subject: Dixies/Emmetts/Saji employee perspective: Say No

To: <[zlu@summithillassociation.org](mailto:zlu@summithillassociation.org)>

My friend asked me to send this email, on account that they don't want to be identified. It could lead to retaliation and a bad employment recommendation. So they asked me to send this from my email because I can't get a bad work recommendation since I never worked there.

From my friend:

The perspective of employees on Grand is not being voiced. Let me tell you about working on Grand Avenue. I used to work at one of the three restaurants at 695 Grand, not saying which one. Before COVID it was a good place to work. I liked my coworkers. I liked working on

Grand. Easy to get to, safe area, and mostly nice customers who left good tips that got shared. During COVID, the regular employees were pretty much all laid off even though the owners probably got big loans from PPE funds. They kept a few people on, but not very many.

I think the development is a cash grab that will hurt the employees. I saw a picture of it and it looks like something in Woodbury on the side of big 8 lane road. And how come they never show the whole thing? Too big to fit on the computer screen? People come to Grand because it's quaint, that is not quaint.

It's also going to make it harder to work here or for people to come to the restaurant. Where is everyone going to park? Right now there's employee parking and customer parking. Most of the customers come in their cars. I can tell you that I had customers tell me they were going to go to Braza but there was nowhere to park so they came to us instead. Employees drive, too. I drove to work for safety and time. I don't work 9-5. Employee parking is really nice, especially walking out late with cash tips. The employee spots were often full, more so in winter. I got a ticket once for a snow emergency. That was half my paycheck. I learned my lesson, but how will that even work after this giant building is built with no employee parking, less customer parking, and not even one parking spot per luxury apartment? Does this new development plan have employee parking? Nope. Will it make it harder for people like me to get to their job? Yup. Will it make it harder for customers to park to get to Grand businesses? Yup. The other businesses on Grand, the hair stylists and drycleaners and spice store and so forth, what about them? What about their customers? Those customers use street parking. Eighty new apartments with not much parking for the new apartments, well, those hundred or so people aren't going to make up for the thousands of people who come by car now. They aren't eating dinner at the downstairs restaurants every night or getting their hair cut or their clothes sewed or picking up new spices every day.

Then there's the construction. When the restaurants close for a year or two, no one is getting a benefit. No one wants a replacement job with the owners buddies out on Lake Minnetonka. It's too far away. We all stay around St Paul, West St Paul, Maplewood. And who's going to come back after they find something else? If the restaurants even come back. Does this new development of fancy apartments consider the employees at all? Nope.

I got myself a new job and I'm doing ok again, but it was a bad year. I just wanted you all to know that employees won't benefit from this. I still visit Grand Ave and I hope that you will not allow this project. I don't wish bad on the owners and especially not the managers, but I just don't understand why they would want to make this building that doesn't fit in, and hurt all their employees. So please vote no. They can do better.

Signed, Nameless