

From: judiburkhart@gmail.com
To: [*CI-StPaul_LH-Licensing](#)
Subject: Gas Station and Tobacco Shop - 1184 Maryland Avenue
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:43:04 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

Felt very compelled to respond to your letter regarding the petition for a 'Smoke Shop' within the ARCO gas station on the southeast corner of Maryland and Duluth. This was/is a problem area.

I have lived about a half block away since 1965. Was here when they (believe it was three Minnesota Vikings players) petitioned to have a gas station erected on that corner. Was okay for awhile. They sold it and it started going down hill. Had problems with late hours/noise and traffic. Got that (hours of operation) changed. Then the new owners first added a Deli and then petitioned for a car wash! I don't know how that went through as I don't know a neighbor who agreed to that. The car wash raised havoc with traffic as there isn't enough room on the station's property and cars were lining up in the alley - preventing residents from getting into their garages (the alley is a "T"). Then the city erected blockage in the center of Maryland and Duluth which helps pedestrians cross Maryland Avenue ... however, not traffic; also prohibits left turn for traffic traveling west. This causes more problems as it causes residents on the south side of Maryland and residents on Rose Avenue to use Lane Place to cut through the alley behind the gas station as a street - the alley is a "T" and used by Duluth and Lane Place residents.

Maryland Avenue is heavily traveled and now down to a single lane. A lot goes on at that corner - their parking area is always congested. There is a busy dental office on the corner across the street (southwest) side of street. The street is always lined with parked cars. A few years ago you could spot the drug dealings (don't know now - since my husband passed) - I avoid that corner.

"Pride of the East Side" or "East Side; the Best Side". Now it's nothing but a war zone.

The City has blessed us with many low cost housing areas plus with all the shootings, gang problems, many good old timers have abandoned the Eastside for safer areas and we now have slumlords and more low cost housing. Why the East Side?

On the Eastside, we already have:

Roosevelt Housing Project

McDonough Housing Project

Mount Airy Housing Project

AIM (American Indian movement) apartments

Plus, more low income areas.

Also have many Homeless Camps on the Eastside.

I believe a smoke shop brings more problems into the area as I have noticed the shootings, the stabbings and the congregated people on a very troubled area of the east side, which is Clarence and Maryland - only a couple blocks from the gas station. There is a smoke shop on the corner of Earl and Maryland about two blocks west of the gas station, there is another smoke shop in the area of Clarence and Maryland where all the trouble is and many police reports have come across on my Citizen's App. I'm sure there's more Smoke Shops on White Bear Avenue where there's more problems.

I'd suggest checking the problems on the Eastside - we don't need another place to congregate - causing more traffic and shootings closer to my highly over-taxed home!

Suggest you check further with the city of Saint Paul's police reports for the area in which you're attempting to put another smoke shop which will bring more problems. Do we really need three smoke shops within six or eight blocks?

(651) 776-3145

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