

From: [Mary Tipping](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Zoning Code Change
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:55:48 AM

You don't often get email from marytip@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I live (and pay my property taxes) in the Macalester Groveland neighborhood. Everyday, I walk along our beautiful river, which has already been blighted by the horrendous building you have allowed St Thomas to build.

Now, I understand that you will be voting on a zoning code change that would allow St Thomas to build taller buildings. **St Thomas, in Saint Paul, is in a residential neighborhood** where people are raising families; attending the local schools and churches; walking, biking, and running the neighborhood streets and sidewalks; participating in community events; and generally just building lives. For the life of me, I don't understand why St Thomas is not doing their never-ending expansion in downtown Mpls, which would probably beg them to do so.

St Thomas is located in the Macalester Groveland and Merriam Park neighborhoods, we don't want to live on St Thomas's campus. Please do not approve the zoning code change.

Mary Tipping

From: [Emily Sharma](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Zoning Law Change – Please Protect Our Neighborhood Blend
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:55:45 AM

You don't often get email from emilycsharma@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing as a resident of Lincoln Ave, just across from the St. Thomas practice field. I chose this neighborhood because of the unique way the university and the residential community blend together—it's what makes living here so special.

I'm not opposed to progress or change, but I am concerned that the proposed zoning law would disrupt this balance. In just the three years since I bought my home, I've already seen St. Thomas start to overshadow the neighborhood I was so excited to join. The proposed change would accelerate that trend and undermine the character that draws people to this area.

A few key points I hope you'll consider:

- The City should prioritize policies that encourage colleges to blend into residential neighborhoods. Anything that doesn't blend should require a variance—this ensures thoughtful growth and respect for existing communities.
- This is not a “minor” change. It would reverse decades of policy and the foundational principle that the most restrictive zoning governs. That's a major shift with far-reaching consequences.
- Community councils were not notified of this change. Reversing the primacy of zoning controls is a significant policy move, and it affects every St. Paul neighborhood with a college, university, or seminary. Residents deserve a voice in such decisions.

I'm not asking for the clock to be turned back or for progress to stop. I'm asking for limits that protect the unique blend of the universities and the neighborhood that makes our part of St. Paul so vibrant.

Thank you for your attention and for considering the impact this change would have on our community.

Sincerely,
Emily Sharma

From: [Murray Thurston](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Change to the College Building Height Code
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 8:36:46 AM

You don't often get email from msp1mrt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I write to strenuously object to any, change, modification, or alteration of the existing zoning codes applicable to St. Paul colleges.

For thirty some years I have shared a neighborhood with St. Thomas. Like all neighborhood interactions, there have been inconveniences. Of late, St. Thomas has morphed into a metastatic colossus. Its ambition has become a detriment to our neighborhood.

What is even more disturbing is the acquaintance of my city government and total disregard for citizen questions and opinion. Seemingly, every day there is a new encroachment and citizen objection is ignored.

I have no illusions: This proposed change will be acted upon favorably.

I will look for a beach where I can find my allotment of sand and endeavor to heed the Council's instructions to pound vigorously.

Murray Thurston

200

From: jjohns007@icloud.com
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: building height limits for H2 residential districts
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 7:45:37 AM

You don't often get email from jjohns007@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council members,

I live near St. Thomas University, in the Shadow Falls neighborhood, and have been here since 1988.

I'm writing to urge you to reject the proposal to allow colleges not to abide by the zoning code for maximum building height in H2 residential districts (39 feet), but to build up to 75 or 90 feet.

Such tall structures would radically change the character of the surrounding neighborhoods and should require a variance.

This policy change is not minor, which is how it has been presented, and would undo decades of policy decisions. It is being done without input from district and community councils, which is disrespectful to those groups (and, by extension, the communities they represent), denying them the opportunity to weigh in and depriving the City Council of their input.

I urge you to vote "no" on this proposal, or to table it until it has been evaluated by the relevant community/district councils.

Respectfully,

James Johnson
jjohns007@icloud.com

From: [Michelle Basham](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Cc: mbash58@gmail.com
Subject: Objection to proposed zoning code change for universities
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 4:53:24 AM

You don't often get email from mbash58a@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings St. Paul City Council:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed zoning code changes that will allow universities to exceed height requirements. This proposed change has several flaws including:

1. The City should emphasize colleges blending into residential neighborhoods and require that anything that does not blend require a variance.
2. This is not a “minor” change: it reverses decades of policy decisions and the basic tenet of zoning law that the most restrictive zoning control governs.
3. The community councils were not notified of this change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy that has real-life applications for all communities that include one of St. Paul’s many colleges, universities, and seminaries to which this change would apply.

I hope you vote against this proposed change to the zoning code.

Michelle Basham
1887 Montreal Avenue
St. Paul

From: [Terrance Brueck](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Zoning code building height - DO NOT APPROVE
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 10:14:58 PM

You don't often get email from terry.brueck@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

You vote tomorrow on a measure to turn the zoning code on its head, freeing colleges from the need to conform to height limitations of the zoning district in which they sit. Please do not approve these changes to the zoning code for the following reasons:

1. The City should emphasize colleges blending into residential neighborhoods and require that anything that does not blend requires a variance.
2. This is not a "minor" change: it reverses decades of policy decisions and the basic tenet of zoning law that the most restrictive zoning control governs.
3. The community councils were not notified of this change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy that has real-life applications for all communities that include one of St. Paul's many colleges, universities, and seminaries to which this change would apply.

Please vote "no" to approve these changes to the zoning code.

Thanks for your attention!

Terrance Brueck
2279 Summit Avenue

From: [Twink LaFave](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: We Care about our Neighborhood!! !!
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 9:36:35 PM

You don't often get email from twinklaf@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To St Paul City Council

I am standing up about changing the requirements about University buildings in our neighborhoods to have looser interpretations of legal building requirements.

Because a University such as the University of St Thomas resides in our wonderful neighborhood, it is more valuable to students and prospective students' parents. We work hard to keep our blocks safe, peaceful and beautiful. We take care of our beautiful Mississippi and appreciate having it so close to us with its wildlife and wilderness.

Our City should emphasize colleges and seminaries blending into our residential neighborhoods; and require that anything that doesn't blend require a variance.

This is not a "minor" change. It reverses many years of policy decisions as well as the basic tenet of zoning law.

The Community Councils were not notified of this change.

A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy that has real life applications for all communities that include one of St Paul's many colleges, universities and seminaries to which this change would apply.

Respectfully, and very concernedly,

Twink LaFave

From: [Catherine Spaeth](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Do not pass the zoning code change!
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 9:32:59 PM

You don't often get email from ccspaeth@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

I am writing to urge you not to pass the zoning code change to remove height restrictions for colleges.

Here are my reasons:

The City should emphasize colleges blending into residential neighborhoods and require that anything that does not blend require a variance.

This is not a “minor” change: it reverses decades of policy decisions and the basic tenet of zoning law that the most restrictive zoning control governs.

The community councils were not notified of this change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy that has real-life applications for all communities that include one of St. Paul’s many colleges, universities, and seminaries to which this change would apply. The community councils should have time to get neighbors’ input and for discussion.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Spaeth

1879 Carroll Avenue

St Paul

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Catherine Spaeth

From: [Mallary Barr](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: zoning concern for colleges
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 8:52:52 PM

You don't often get email from mallary.barr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm writing as a resident on MRB and St Clair in advance of the city council meeting tomorrow. I am highly opposed to the zoning changes proposed. The colleges in our neighborhood should blend into our beautiful residential neighborhoods. Anything that reverses decades of policy decisions and zoning laws is of massive concern to the neighborhood and needs to be addressed thoroughly and in detail.

Thank you,
Mallary Barr

From: [Catherine Clements](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Oppose Zoning Change to 39" Height Limitations
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 8:39:31 PM

You don't often get email from samanthix@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I'm writing to oppose the proposed minor zoning changes to the 39-foot maximum in the H2 residential district limits. As someone who has lived in St. Paul close to the University of St Thomas for more than 50 years—and whose family has lived in this area for more than a century—I care deeply about our neighborhoods. I'm also a university professor who values the role of higher education and the vibrancy of blended student/residential housing. That said, this proposal is gross overreach.


This change overturns the very basic construction tenet requiring that institutions or companies must seek variances when their plans don't fit the surrounding context. Colleges should blend into neighborhoods, not overwhelm or devour them. If a project doesn't fit, it should go through a transparent variance process. Allowing blanket exceptions hastens the rapidly eroding public trust in a school that claims to be guided by Catholic philosophy. (Also, it's in St Thomas's best interest to have a beautiful surrounding area; do they want Mac Groveland to look like Dinkytown?)

Worse, community councils weren't notified of this change, adding to the perception that UST is trying to (continue to) make changes without including the residential community. A change this significant, with citywide implications, should not move forward without public input.

Please reject this proposal and protect the zoning safeguards that have served St. Paul for generations.

Sincerely, 

Catherine Clements

2100 Fairmount Ave, St Paul 

From: [Joel Clemmer](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: from Ward 4 to Mr Privratsky
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 7:53:47 PM

You don't often get email from joel@joelclemmer.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr Privratsky

I am a constituent living at 2154 Fairmount Avenue. I urge you NOT to change our zoning ordinance so as to allow colleges to ignore the current restriction of height. It is a major advantage to both the neighborhoods and the institutions to harmonize without one overwhelming the other.

Second, I am very disappointed in the process for this proposed change in that the district councils have not been notified and there has been little or no discussion at that level.

So i urge you to deny the change on both substance and process.

Joel Clemmer
joel@joelclemmer.org

From: [Victoria Stewart](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: H2 residential zoning limits
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 7:14:32 PM

You don't often get email from stew0042@alumni.umn.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

I write to express my strong opposition to any change in the H2 residential zoning limits. There are a number of reasons for this. Colleges and universities located in residential neighborhoods should be required to blend with the neighborhoods. The changes being considered are not in any way "minor" changes. They are major ones that would affect neighborhoods adversely.. The mischaracterization of the changes as "minor" is incorrect. It should not be used to circumvent public debate on the proposed changes in neighborhood councils and other public forums. None of this has happened.

Please vote "no" on the proposed changes to the H2 residential zoning limits.

Sincerely,
Victoria Stewart
124 Montrose Place
St. Paul, MN 55104

From: [Jenna Sadjadi](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: FW: Zoning code
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 1:25:19 PM

From: Margaret Wirth-Johnson <mwirthjohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 9:28 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Zoning code

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mwirthjohnson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

To Council representative Noecker:

I am a resident of ward 4, who lives two blocks from the University of St. Thomas. It has come to my attention that on Wednesday, July 9 the council will be voting on a measure to change the city zoning code, freeing colleges from the need to conform to height limitations of the zoning district in which they sit.

I am strongly against any changes to the zoning code that would give colleges freedom from height restrictions. Colleges need to blend into residential areas.

At the very least, this vote should be postponed, as city community councils were not informed of the proposed change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy issue that has consequences for all neighborhoods in which a college sits in St. Paul, including University of St. Thomas.

Margaret Wirth-Johnson
2224 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul, 55104

From: [Mary Halverson Waldo](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: City Council Vote: July 9
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:56:11 AM

You don't often get email from mhalwaldo912@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Esteemed members of St Paul City Council:

AS residents of St Paul, we are concerned about the proposal to make major zoning changes. We request that you carefully consider the following:

1. To emphasize that colleges blend into residential neighborhoods, and require anything that does not blend to require a variance.
2. That you resist making major changes which would reverse many years of policy decisions qne the basic tenet of zoning law that the most restrictive zoning control governs.
3. That community councils were not notified of this proposed change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy that has real-life applications for all communities that include one of the many colleges, universities, and seminaries in St Paul.

Thank you for attending to our concerns.

Mary Halverson Waldo and the Right Reverend W. Andrew Waldo
2244 Sargent Avenue
St Paul, MN 55105

From: [Gayle Breutzman](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Council](#)
Subject: Zoning code changes
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:51:21 AM

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

St. Paul City Council Members,

The St. Paul City Council is voting today on what have been termed “minor” zoning code changes. These changes are not “minor” to neighborhood residents that will be affected.

I live near a college campus that sits in the middle of several residential neighborhoods. The college does not exist in isolation, and the zoning changes will exclude legalities that require the University to blend into the surrounding area. Colleges—especially those in residential areas—need to be required by law to abide by the current zoning code which restricts which restricts their building heights to 39 feet in H2 residential districts. In addition, the University that exists one block from my home is in the Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area, which has additional zoning restrictions. How can the City of St. Paul make blanket zoning changes for the entire city, when areas are unique property sites and need to be considered individually? That is why variances exist!

It would be blatantly careless to revise zoning laws until all aspects of their effects on neighborhoods and the environment have been carefully weighed and impacts considered. Some of the “minor” zoning changes are actually major changes, and should be considered and voted on as such.

Sincerely,

Gayle Breutzman
151 Woodlawn Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: [jerome abrams](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: proposed change to zoning
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:51:16 AM

You don't often get email from jeromeabr@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

The proposed zoning change the subject of the the July 9, 2025 city council meeting must not be approved. The proposed change to the zoning code would reverse long standing policy decisions and the basic tenet of zoning law that the most restrictive zoning control governs and allow colleges to no longer abide by the zoning code. Please note that the community councils were not notified of this change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy decision that affects all of the taxpaying residents that subsidize the tax exempt colleges, universities , and seminaries. As a tax paying and long standing resident of St. Paul, I am disgusted that the city council continues to ignore the in place conditional use permits and the consequent compromise to St. Paul residents' safety. Do not approve the change to make tax exempt colleges and universities free of the need to conform to height limitations of the zoning district in which they are located.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerome H. Abrams
151 Woodlawn Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: [Kristin Koziol](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: Fw: Zoning code vote
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:18:09 AM

From: Margaret Wirth-Johnson <mwirthjohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 09:30 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Zoning code vote

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mwirthjohnson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

To Council Representative Privratsky:

I am a resident of ward 4, who lives two blocks from the University of St. Thomas. It has come to my attention that on Wednesday, July 9 the council will be voting on a measure to change the city zoning code, freeing colleges from the need to conform to height limitations of the zoning district in which they sit.

I am strongly against any changes to the zoning code that would give colleges freedom from height restrictions. Colleges need to blend into residential areas.

At the very least, this vote should be postponed, as city community councils were not informed of the proposed change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy issue that has consequences for all neighborhoods in which a college sits in St. Paul, including University of St. Thomas.

Margaret Wirth-Johnson
2224 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul, 55104

From: [P.Liquard](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Legislative Code section 65.220
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:09:26 AM

You don't often get email from pliquard@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I have recently become aware that the city council is considering an amendment to Legislative Code section 65.220 that would exempt colleges and universities from the height limitations of the underlying zoning districts. In St. Paul, those underlying districts are primarily residential. Instead of a presumption that a college may not develop in a manner that detracts from the residential nature of its zoning district, the amendment would create a presumption that colleges may build up to 90 feet tall unless limited by a different means. This change would shift the paradigm of the city's zoning law that the most restrictive applicable measure applies (unless a variance is approved). To even consider this amendment without notification to the city's community councils is a grave mistake. Further consideration would discuss ways to address this issue in more creative ways than simply exempting colleges and universities. To approve this major amendment would be contrary to the city's emphasis in its comprehensive plan to strengthen its residential communities. Colleges and universities should not be elevated over residents who pay property taxes to a status where "the regular rules don't apply."

Further consideration in drafting should also ensure that overlay districts are not considered "underlying zoning districts." Here's an example: College X is in an H2 zoning district (39-foot height limit). The city approves an overlay district for environmental purposes that limits all construction to 35 feet. It should not be the case that all property owners must comply with this environmental regulation EXCEPT College X, which can build higher than everyone else. College X must comply with the overlay district, regardless of the H2 limit, any CUP limit, and any limit in section 65.220. The amendment should specifically state that height limitations in overlay districts still apply to colleges and universities.

Sincerely,
Patricia Liquard

From: [Elizabeth Wittenberg](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Vote today on planning commission recommendation about building heights
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:09:21 AM

You don't often get email from elizabethwittenberg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

My name is Elizabeth Wittenberg. I live at 2194 Goodrich Avenue and I am concerned about an issue being raised at a Council meeting later today.

I understand that the City Council is taking up a recommendation of the planning commission related to building heights and a conflict between the maximum building height permitted in the H2 residential district of 39 feet and less restrictive height maximums for colleges. I understand that the planning commission's recommendation is in conflict with the city code which indicates that the more restrictive provision applies. This seems like a very significant change which ultimately could impair the character of residential neighborhoods and that the recommendation was made without public input including that of the community councils. Given the large number of colleges and universities in St. Paul, it's important that this kind of significant change is widely agreed to and understood before adoption, and not slipped in as a minor code reconciliation. These height restrictions have a dramatic effect on the esthetics, tree canopy and the general livability of our community. I hope your decision today will enable there to be more conversation about this issue rather than foreclosing more input and understanding of it.

Thank you for considering this.

Elizabeth Wittenberg

From: [Linda Van Egeren](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Change in zoning code
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:09:15 AM

You don't often get email from lvanegeren@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am opposed to the proposed zoning code changes that would allow colleges and universities to not abide by the principle that their buildings should blend into the surrounding community. It appears that the University of St Thomas has donors with very deep pockets that are influencing St Paul City zoning. It's we the citizens who pay the taxes and have a long-term commitment to the community who are not being heard. It appears to me what is being heard is the oversized influence of the University of St Thomas and their wealthy donors. I am asking that the city council show support to the tax-paying residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

Linda Van Egeren and Steven Mose
511 Desnoyer Avenue St Paul MN 55104
651-647-9515

From: [Laura Halferty](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Proposed zoning change
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:09:09 AM

You don't often get email from halfpint1763@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear council members,

I learned a few moments ago that you are considering what is labeled a “minor” change to zoning laws in St. Paul at your meeting tomorrow. This proposed zoning change has real life consequence to our neighborhoods in Saint Paul and should not be changed without input and discussion from our neighborhood councils.

Decades of zoning policy in Saint Paul emphasize the need to have our educational institutions *blend* in with the neighborhoods in which they sit. The proposed change turns that policy on its head. A blank policy exempting colleges, universities, etc. from having to follow these policies is outrageous. If these institutions want to explore a variance, there is a procedure that can be followed to obtain one. It is critical that the city retain review and oversight of any proposed changes that do not comply with the current zoning rules. Finally, it is fundamentally unfair to require individuals to follow zoning rules, but to completely abandon rules for educational institutions that have significantly more resources simply because it is labeled an educational institution.

I asked that you vote no on this proposed change. Sincerely, Laura Halferty 2187 Summit Ave., Saint Paul

From: [Katherine Galligan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Please don't change building height codes
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:08:50 AM

[You don't often get email from katherine.galligan3@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hi - I have been fortunate to live in St Paul, in Mac-Groveland, for most of my life. I feel strongly that maintaining the current maximum height restrictions for buildings in residential areas such as ours is critical to maintaining the beauty of this space.

Thank you for respecting and preserving our lands.

Katherine Galligan
2257 Sargent Av
St Paul

612.710.1741

Katherine Galligan

From: [walter](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: building heights at St. Thomas
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:08:47 AM

You don't often get email from jrebertz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear council member,

Please do not rollover for St Thomas initiatives and upend current zoning with respect to building height in residential neighborhoods. I am opposed to any change permitting heights beyond current zoning limits.

Regards,
Walter Ebertz
2201 Dayton Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

From: [david O'Brien](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: zoning change on college building heights
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:08:46 AM

You don't often get email from davesob1@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

There will be a proposal for a change to the zoning rules for maximum height for buildings on buildings in an residential H2 district. The current limit of 39 feet is reasonable and good. The requirement should not be changed.

A college in a residential H2 district is part of the district and shouldn't be allowed to have buildings that destroy the the design/appearance of the district. Anything that does not adhere must require a variance.

I only recently learned of this proposed zoning change. The community councils were not advised of the change. This is a big deal. It needs to be given much more attention from all the parties that will be affected.

Thank you,
David OBrien
2208 Princeton Ave
St Paul, MN 55105
651-699-4945

From: [Margaret Wirth-Johnson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Zoning vote
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:08:39 AM

You don't often get email from mwirthjohnson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To all City Council Representatives:

I am a resident of ward 4, who lives two blocks from the University of St. Thomas. It has come to my attention that on Wednesday, July 9 the council will be voting on a measure to change the city zoning code, freeing colleges from the need to conform to height limitations of the zoning district in which they sit.

I am strongly against any changes to the zoning code that would give colleges freedom from height restrictions. Colleges need to blend into residential areas.

At the very least, this vote should be postponed, as city community councils were not informed of the proposed change. A reversal of the primacy of zoning controls is a major policy issue that has consequences for all neighborhoods in which a college sits in St. Paul, including University of St. Thomas.

Margaret Wirth-Johnson
2224 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul, 55104

From: [david Cummings](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Cc: [Daniel Kennedy](#)
Subject: Zoning changes
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:08:36 AM

You don't often get email from abraxas1229@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The proposed zoning changes would allow a college to disregard the it's responsibility to the surrounding neighborhood. It would also adversely affect the property values of the existing houses in the immediate vicinity to where the building went up. To pass these changes is to ignore your mandate as a council.

David Cummings

From: [Irene Suddard](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Today's council meeting and proposed zoning changes
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 3:21:14 PM

You don't often get email from irene.suddard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing as a Mac Groveland resident who has lived in the neighborhood around St Thomas for over 40 years. The proposed zoning change to be discussed today is certainly not "minor" (as it has been described) it proposes colleges, universities, etc. will no longer have to abide by the underlying current zoning code. This is not Minor, it is Major! This change reverses DECADES of policy decisions where the basic tenant is that the most restrictive of zoning code measures apply to a particular entity. Why this proposed change? Why now? And why weren't the Community Councils informed of this proposed change and asked both for their input and opinion, after all, they represent the neighbors with a mandate to bring feedback to the council. This is a big oversight on the part of the City Council that needs to be rectified.

Irene Suddard
2192 Fairmount Av,