

From: [Joe Jacobson](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Appeal File #: 24-039-050 Site Plan File #: 23-079-985
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:57:08 AM

Once again, the well intended words from University of St Thomas leadership regarding the new Lee and Penny Anderson Arena have no plan, no substance and therefore little support.

Generally speaking, the surrounding community is well aware they live by a great and thriving University and have been mostly understanding and supportive as they grow and expand.

This is no different.

The community isn't against an arena per se. It's against the complete lack of a plan to address the impact of the arena to the surrounding communities. The talking points and plan from this athletic administration, once again, are tone deaf, arrogant and lack substance. Not to mention some of the talking points are just made up, for example:

"An on-campus facility is favorable for many reasons, including the ability to reduce vehicle traffic".

(There is zero evidence to back up this claim)

UST needs to provide an actual community impact plan especially around traffic, parking, crowd control and environmental impact. With details, specifics, costs, timelines...like an actual plan not platitudes and rhetoric like "energize the city" and "We are as motivated as anyone to mitigate complications and will find solutions to traffic and parking on event days."

From: [Michael Dolan](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: St Thomas Arena
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 8:57:44 PM

I support the building of the new arena on the St Thomas campus!

Mike Dolan
Area resident
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Humbert, Suzanne M.](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Lee and Penny Anderson Arena
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 5:26:59 PM

Hi – this is in relation to University of St. Thomas 2260 Summit Avenue Appeal File #: 24-039-050
Site Plan File #: 23-079-985

I am writing to voice my support for the Lee and Penny Anderson Arena on the campus of St. Thomas. I went to St. Thomas and graduated in 1999. During that time, I played varsity basketball all four years. I met my husband at St. Thomas. He played varsity football all four years. We have raised a family in St. Paul, with four children ranging in age from 11-18. Our years at St. Thomas provided us with the skills needed to have successful careers in the Twin Cities. Some of those skills came from participating on the sports teams – the value of hard work, time management, working in teams, and leading teams as a captain. St. Thomas has always provided opportunities for its student-athletes to be so much more than athletes – to come together for the common good.

St. Thomas is a significant asset to the city of St. Paul. The ability to have such a strong academic institution within the city attracts students from near and far. The campus itself is often a big reason students choose to attend – it offers the benefits of being in a city, but on a beautiful campus that has the feel of small campus that has everything you need. As a student who did not have a car on campus, the ability to go watch other sports' teams on campus allowed me to partake in the vibrant campus life. If our basketball arena was not on campus, I doubt we would have gotten many fans to come watch. The ability to have an arena on campus leads to increased student engagement.

St. Thomas has a long history of working within its boundaries to repurpose buildings and space. This is another example of doing just that. They are building with the campus boundaries, working closely with city officials on permits, approvals and requirements and are operating within the rules. Building a new arena on campus brings the opportunity to make infrastructure improvements that will benefit the whole neighborhood, such as the improvements to the crossing on Cretin at Grand and Goodrich avenues. It also will result in a positive increased economic impact to the neighborhoods and the city.

In my job, I go back to campus frequently to recruit accounting students from the university to come work for my company. It is a vibrant campus that proves many opportunities for students to learn, practice their faith, engage with the neighborhood, and become future leaders. St. Thomas has a history of working with the neighborhoods and being a good neighbor and they do not take that lightly. I am confident that they will do the same with this arena.

Thanks –
Suzanne Humbert
1360 Como Blvd East
St. Paul, MN 55117

Suzanne Humbert
she/her/hers
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Ward 5, Hwajeong Kim

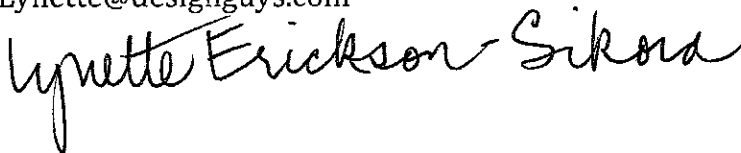
Dear Councilperson Kim,

When the ARD (Advocates for Responsible Development) Appeal against the site plan for the University of St Thomas arena comes before you:

- **Think Independently.**
- We do not live in the *City of St Thomas*, but rather in the *City of St Paul*. Let's keep it that way.
- UST rules through influence and intimidation of well-placed personnel within the City. In this case the City's acceptance of the flawed EAW almost assures an automatic rubber stamp from every other agency and department.
- UST flaunts its power with the expectation of automatic approvals, as extensive site preparation months before a building permit proves.
- I question the wisdom of building a 5,500-seat arena 1 block from the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. While many commercial enterprises are "grandfathered in" to continue doing businesses on riverfront properties, the proximity of this arena should be considered environmentally unsound today. You can put an end to this practice, and send a strong message right now.
- I urge you to *approve* the UST Appeal to *deny* UST's site plan.

Kindly acknowledge your receipt of this letter.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Erickson-Sikora
Shadow Falls
Lynette@designguys.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette Erickson-Sikora". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.