



Highland District Council  
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Mark Johnson  
VP Public Safety & Facilities  
Public Safety 103  
St. Catherine University  
2004 Randolph Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

February 5, 2018

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The members of the Community Development Committee (CDC) want to thank you for attending our meeting to offer both an overview of the site plan and the rationale behind the need for more parking. We also appreciate the changes you made to reduce the amount of parking places and increase landscaping in the area.

We appreciate the explanation that many of your students cannot use transit to attend school because they live in the suburbs or have schedules that make it difficult using buses or trains. We understand their challenge.

Still, some neighbors and HDC members are not supportive of the decision to remove a section of a forest cherished by students, faculty and the neighborhood. Many neighbors object to the removal of trees and fear the potential for water issues which have plagued Bayard Avenue for years.

You explained during the meeting that many students could not find a place to park, but anecdotally students, neighbors and instructors have told us the opposite. The Fairview Avenue lot appears filled only a few hours a day, and is only heavily used nine months a year – and even then, only five or six hours a day.

Surrounding the University is a built infrastructure of many streets within a quarter mile of campus where students can legally park. The point was made that the University could be more proactive in informing students about transit options in a way that other schools have done. Our understanding is that the students have not been advised to utilize streets in the surrounding neighborhoods, which was many neighbors stated at the meeting that they would prefer this, to the loss of the woods. Highland Park is one of safest, if not the safest, neighborhood in the city.

We would like to extend our offer to help you find a more desirable solution than to add parking to our neighborhood. That solution would, in fact, likely save money and continue the university's reputation as one of the more appealing campus environments in the metropolitan region. It would showcase your campus as a place where environmental stewardship is embraced. Thank you for your time. We look forward to your response.

The Highland District Council Board of Directors

Cc: Rebecca Roloff, President and CEO / Elizabeth Halloran, Executive Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer

Resolution 2018 -02E

The Highland District Council's mission is to foster opportunities for the people that live, learn, work, and play in Highland Park to engage and connect with neighbors, businesses and local government and to help build a more vibrant, welcoming, and safe neighborhood.

The HDC is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit.