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October 28, 2021

Saint Paul Planning Commission  
City Hall, Room 40  
15 Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
VIA EMAIL

Re: Proposed Religious Institution Accessory Uses Code Amendments

Dear Saint Paul City Planning Commission Members:

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Housing and Land Use Committee of the Macalester Groveland Community Council ("MGCC") held a public eMeeting via Zoom, at which it considered the *Proposed Religious Institution Accessory Uses Code Amendments* to Chapter 65 of the Zoning Code – Land Use Definitions and Development Standards.

Prior to the meeting, MGCC received 1 letter in opposition of the proposed amendments. One non-voting community member, representing a faith institution in Mac-Grove, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendments.

After considering neighborhood feedback, consulting the Macalester Groveland Long Range plan, and reviewing the proposed amendments, the Housing and Land Use Committee passed the following resolution by a final vote of 15-2, with 1 abstention:

**\*\* The Housing and Land Use Committee of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council recommends denial of the Proposed Religious Institution Accessory Uses Code Amendments, with a recommendation to revise amendment language, including:**

- 1. Removal of (a) *No building additions or new buildings may be constructed for the primary purpose of conducting a religious institution accessory use,***
- 2. Clarification of (b) as to which uses require a Conditional Use Permit, and**
- 3. Expansion of (4) to require supervision for purposes of security in and around overnight shelters, when in use. \*\***

Important to the decision were the following considerations:

- Concern over the level of engagement done with Saint Paul faith institutions and community members.

- A lack of information for the aforementioned groups on the intended and potential unintended consequences of these proposed amendments.
- A lack of clarity in the amendment language on the services allowed or disallowed by faith institutions.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Alexa Golemo  
Executive Director  
Macalester-Groveland Community Council

cc (via email): Ward 3 Office, City of Saint Paul  
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