

From: Sweet William [mailto:sweetwilliamimages@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2011 7:42 PM

To: Parks, Timothy

Subject: Mullins Project Objection

Dear Mr. Parks,

I regret that I could not attend the City Counsel meeting this evening which I had planned to do. My son is sick and has a fever and I have to attend to him this evening. I regret very much to miss this meeting but will use this time to communicate with you.

As a 32 year resident of this neighborhood, I very much want to go on record as objecting whole heartedly to the Mullins Project at Old University Avenue and Highland Avenue. I would like to see the project dropped entirely, that would be my strong preference.

Some of my reasons are :

Scale - the building is way way to tall

Loss of Light and Air THIS IS A HUGE CONCERN TO MYSELF AND MANY NEIGHBORS. THE BUILDING BLOCKS OUT TOO MUCH LIGHT AND AIR BECAUSE IT IS TOO TALL.

Style: Poor architectural fit in an historic neighborhood. There is nothing else that even remotely relates to this contemporary - stuck in post modern which has long past, style choice

Materials - Two colors of brick and glass is hard, impersonal and uninteresting. The "steel" that they want to use as trim which was brought up at some point was actually painted wood. This project very much looks like mall sprawl. In fact in comparison to some of the commercial areas we have in the Hilldale area, this project looks far worse from all sides.

Mall Sprawl Corridor Feeling: Is simply not attractive. This project is jumping the gun. The corridor plan for this area is not complete and needs to be in place before Mullin's project goes forward. Mullin's group has refused this request time and again but it is essential. Again, they are thinking of themselves instead of the good of the community.

Parking - There are not enough residential or commercial parking spaces for the project and this crowds current conditions for parking in the neighborhood.

Density - too many people for the area AND let's not fool anyone. This is going to be student housing. There are already enough condos (many up for sale and not selling) on the market in Madison.

Loss of Large Established Trees - I fear many will die from the construction stress and they cannot be replaced.

There has been mention that this block is "blighted" and that this is why the building needs to go forward.

If one thinks about it the neighborhood is "blighted" because Mullins has purposely done so by making it difficult for the good tenants that they had in the first place to remain in their properties. Mullins chose to give notice, and gave them no choice to relocate to Jame J Chocolates, EVP Coffee etc. would have remained. To this day, Mullins refuses to repair the water/ice problem that exists at Lulu's restaurant right in their front door where people constantly slip and fall. Lulu's has requested this be repaired numerous times.

I have worked in consultation with the Mullin's group many years ago. I am an interior architect and was hired to "come up with cheap ways to improve the Inn on the Park lobby area". I did so, but at the time Mullin's, for no good reason chose to let the Inn on the Park lobby area remain in disrepair, and took no pride what so ever in improving an area right across the street from the State Capitol for the next nine years.

I don't think their track record, now in several areas is very good and I don't feel then can, therefore, be trusted to treat this property any differently. We need great developers there, great landlords that care to create an attractive building that our neighborhood deserves.

Thank you Mr. Parks.

I appreciate your consideration.

I also hope that you have reviewed the complaint/comment forms that should have been provided to you by now from previous neighborhood meetings. Shiva stated that she would rectify this mis-communication and I hope that she has.

Thank you.

Sweet William