

From: Sandy Thistle <srthistle@gmail.com>

Date: March 7, 2022 at 22:00:07 CST

To: johanna@johannacherry.com

Subject: Letter to the zoning board

Regarding the property at 1221 Spaight Street, requests a side yard setback variance to construct shed roof addition to two-story, single-family dwelling. Alder District #6.

To the Madison Zoning Board,

I live at 1225 Spaight St., one house east of the 1221 property. I have been living in this location with my partner David Wolfe for 25+ years. Our new neighbors are requesting a variance for a dormer at the back, southeast corner of their house. I am writing on behalf of my husband (official homeowner), and myself.

The new homeowners have put significant effort and expense towards improving the property. This house had in fact been empty for over a year before the previous owner bought it, then sold it to Jo and Paul. The home had been a neglected rental for well over 25 years. We are grateful it is now an owner-occupied home. The property was in desperate need of repair and the new owners have made many improvements. These changes, I am certain, have increased the value of our own property and fixed what was previously an eyesore, growing in disrepair from year to year.

Frankly, I was concerned the house would remain empty and become abandoned. In recent years we have had three longer-term empty homes on our block, certainly not contributing to housing values in the neighborhood. The previous owner lived there for just a year and did not invest in any visible improvements to the property. At least 6-months of work has happened since Jo and Paul bought the property. I no longer look out the windows to see critters entering the attic, fallen gutters, missing siding, a rotting back porch, crumbling foundation, and more.

David Wolfe and I fully support the work happening at 1221 and have only gratitude for these changes and new neighbors, and are happy to answer any other questions from the zoning board regarding the work.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for the variance needed at 1221 Spaight St.,

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"I cannot be a teacher without exposing who I am."

- Paulo Freire