

From: John Woodford
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 7:36 PM
To: Planning; Petersen, Sally; Lumm, Jane; Taylor, Christopher (Council)
Subject: Jesuit house

Dear Board Members and others:

I live at 1922 Lorraine Pl., a few doors from the house at 1919 Wayne that the Jesuits wish to buy. My wife and I have lived here since 1977.

I am very much disturbed by the arguments, both open and rumored, that are being used to block the sale to the Jesuits. Some say it's a parking problem. But even if each of the 6 Jesuits had his own car and wished to park it on our streets, there would be no great problem. The fact of the matter is, however, that the Jesuits have agreed to park NOT ONE CAR on the street!

One also hears that the sale would set a precedent that would lead to a frat/sorority influx. But the house is to be defined and "licensed" in such a way that prevents such an occurrence.

And then comes the ugliest opposition: the whispered campaign that young people in the neighborhood would be at risk of molestation. This is a species of bigotry and prejudice that would only be dignified should the Jesuits' bid is turned down. The response reminds me of other species of hysteria in which good people are smeared and hounded out of a community because they represent some sort of difference -- religious, sexual, racial, political and so on. As an African American of some vintage, I am sensitive to such responses and don't want to see my neighborhood subjected to such "cleansing."

As Sonia Urbaniak, who is the house seller in this transaction, has pointed out, it as if she and her husband were to have been denied entry to the neighborhood because, as Germans, they could reasonably be considered pro-Nazi!

The Jesuits have produced thousands of outstanding personalities of great intellect, principle and public service. I'm neither Catholic nor religious, but my wife, daughter and I would be pleased to have them join our neighborhood.

I hope all who have a vote on this matter take a principled stand.

John Woodford
1922 Lorraine Place