

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 1:05 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Nadia Khan; Rachel Powers
Subject: FW: Please distribute: To City Council and Planning & Development Board: Please vote No on #95 -17 Orr Block rezoning to MU4

From: Peter Bruce
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 12:53 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Please distribute: To City Council and Planning & Development Board: Please vote No on #95 -17 Orr Block rezoning to MU4

To the members of the City Council and Planning and Development Board,

At the last LUC hearing on Washington Place, Councilor Hess-Mahan asserted, in more graphic terms, that moving this project back a small distance from the abutters to disqualify their petition made him sick to his stomach. I understand why. The Comprehensive Plan states that community opinion regarding new developments should be respected. So does state law. To ensure this, abutters can petition to require a three-quarters vote threshold by the City Council, as the Foster Street abutters have done. Recently, developer Robert Korff withdrew his petition for rezoning and special permitting that he had submitted over a year ago, when he realized it lacked enough votes. In a sort of land-use gerrymandering, he has since submitted a new application moving his project a small distance away from the abutters, to invalidate their petition and reduce the vote threshold to two-thirds. I hope your conscience, and sense of the spirit of the law and the Comprehensive Plan, as well as the rights and wishes of the abutters, and the people of the Historical District of which they are a part, are as alert as Councilor Hess-Mahan was when he made that statement.

Most of us find political gerrymandering disgusting when politicians chose their electorate with arbitrarily and nonsensically drawn districts. I hope you'll oppose this land-use gerrymander for its evasion of at least the spirit and perhaps the letter of the law.

Sincerely,

Peter Bruce

Claflin Place