

September 6, 1975

Mayor Albert J. Hofstede
127 City Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on your attempts to reduce property taxes. Of the many problems attendant on this mounting property tax, you may or may not be aware of the not-so-subtle changes that this can have on a neighborhood. The character of the Kenwood area is changing dramatically because families who have held pleasant homes in a neighborhood community can no longer afford the taxes. This has resulted in their moving out and not supporting these excellent homes and the taking over of such homes by groups of young individuals who cut down trees, paint houses garish colors and exploit the natural beauties of the area, while contributing nothing to the neighborhood in communication, spirit, or progress. Now I am no conservative bemoaning change in our culture, but multiple individuals living in this fashion in single houses is destructive of the characteristics of a community and eventually is destructive to the very tax base which is your and our problem. ~~It~~ that there is a diminution in property values from exploitation of the neighborhood rather than the development of it.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
2108 Oliver Avenue South
Minneapolis 55405

HB:jp

bpc: John R. and Helene Peters
2691 East Lake of the Isles Pkwy.