



**HAMLIN**  
UNIVERSITY

October 3, 2014

Mr. Michael Jon Olson, Executive Director  
Hamline Midway Coalition- District Council 11  
1558 W. Minnehaha Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Mr. Olson,

Thank you for the letter you sent on behalf of the Hamline Midway Coalition in late August encouraging Hamline University to be in conversation with neighbors regarding the university's long-term planning. Additionally, your note asked us to consider the request made by neighbors for a one-year moratorium on removing houses.

We wished to wait until the September 17 meeting with neighbors to respond to the moratorium request. First, please accept my thanks for serving as moderator that evening. Second, as you are aware, Hamline representatives announced at the meeting that we would self-impose a one-year moratorium on removing any houses, with the exception of 1549 Minnehaha. For that property, we announced a 60-day pause to examine options.

In the days following the September 17 meeting, we have had some internal discussions on whether we might reconsider the timeline for 1549 Minnehaha, as there was significant concern voiced at the community meeting regarding that property. In the interest of entering in good faith into dialogue with members of the Hamline Midway community, we have decided to include 1549 Minnehaha in the one-year moratorium as of October 1, 2014; we will take no further steps to remove it during the moratorium period, which will conclude October 1, 2015.

Over the past two weeks, we have been in discussions with Councilmember Russ Stark, and he has expressed a desire to play the role of convener between the neighborhood and the university for discussions that will take place in the months to come. Additionally, in the interest of all, he will select a facilitator/mediator to lead us through a process to reach mutually desired outcomes. The facilitator will assist the parties in identifying those outcomes and working towards them over the next year. Councilmember Stark's Legislative Aide will be a regular participant in the facilitator-led process as a way to support the process and track progress.


**Office of the President**

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We are hopeful that this process will give us time for deep and valuable engagement with neighbors and that it will help us to find some common ground. The Hamline Midway Coalition would have a voice at the table in such meetings, and we hope you will be active participants in the discussions. We recognize that formal dialogue facilitated by a professional is costly, and in the spirit of moving talks along, Hamline would like to cover the cost of this facilitation. In order to ensure impartiality, the Hamline Midway Coalition could receive funds from Hamline to contract out the facilitation services. Of course, the details of this will have to be worked out, but our goal is to have an impartial facilitator assist us in moving forward. Once Councilmember Stark names a facilitator, and the expenses are determined, we will talk with you directly about this matter. Our understanding is that Councilmember Stark will be in touch with you himself to discuss this further, as well as to outline an initial process that can be communicated with the neighborhood.

Thank you again for all you do to keep our neighborhood strong. We look forward to further conversation and partnership with the neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Dr. Linda N. Hanson  
Hamline University President

cc: Councilmember Russ Stark