

Langer, Samantha (CI-StPaul)

From: Mike Robertson <Mike.Robertson@tchabitat.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:52 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary
Subject: RE: Please Vote In Favor Of The Kimball Court Expansion

Hi Samantha,

My address is 1534 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. Thank you!



[Mike Robertson](#)

A Brush With Kindness Program Manager

TEL/FAX 612-305-7186 CELL 612-328-1668



Everyone deserves a safe, stable, affordable place to live. *Get involved today!*

The Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity office at 1954 University Ave, St. Paul is closed to staff and public until further notice. We are serving our clients virtually and staff are continuing to build and repair homes following strict safety protocols. For the most up-to-date information, please see our COVID-19 webpage at tchabitat.org/coronavirus.

From: *CI-StPaul_PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary <PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:08 AM
To: Mike Robertson <Mike.Robertson@tchabitat.org>
Subject: RE: Please Vote In Favor Of The Kimball Court Expansion

Hi Mike -

I just realized you have not provided an address. We do ask that you include an address to be included in part of the public record.

Samantha

From: Mike Robertson <Mike.Robertson@tchabitat.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:17 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary <PED-ZoningCommitteeSecretary@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Elizabeth Tannen <ETannen@beaconinterfaith.org>
Subject: Please Vote In Favor Of The Kimball Court Expansion

Dear Zoning Committee Members:

My name is Mike Robertson and I am a 30 year resident of St. Paul. I am also the Program Manager for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's A Brush with Kindness program, which serves low-income homeowners

struggling with deferred maintenance and health and safety issues so that can continue to live safely in their communities. I care deeply about affordable housing in our neighborhoods, and I've seen firsthand the growing affordable housing crisis as it has evolved over my 10 years with Habitat.

I am reaching out to you to voice my support of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and the expansion of Kimball Court they are proposing at Snelling Avenue.

We know that access to safe and decent housing is a key element to creating opportunities for stability, healing, education, health, and employment. How well would any of us function in the world without a safe and stable place to call home, or without the network of resources we need to manage our physical and mental health?

I fully recognize the discomfort that neighbors may feel about the expansion. But in my personal experience those concerns are largely coming from a place of fear of the unknown, couched in the language of "nimbyism." Beacon's purpose for the expansion is expressly to provide additional support services for residents, which will almost certainly translate to less of the "disruptive behavior" that neighbors have concerns about.

As a Zoning Committee member, you have the power--and the responsibility--to be part of the *solution* to the affordable housing crisis, and to positively impact community members with few other housing options. I trust you will vote in support of Beacon's planned expansion.

Sincerely,

Mike Robertson



[Mike Robertson](#)

A Brush With Kindness Program Manager

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