

## Alyssa Bryant

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**From:** Roberta Pirkola  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2016 8:03 AM  
**To:** Alyssa Bryant  
**Subject:** FW: Garfield Square Apartments

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**From:** Dehlia [mailto:dehliacclair@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2016 8:15 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Garfield Square Apartments

May 24, 2016

Councilors,

I was disappointed to learn that the Council tabled resolution 16-0381R (CCH request for City Support for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits relating to Garfield Square) at last night's meeting. Leaving this issue until the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is irresponsible. The application deadline is June 16<sup>th</sup>, a mere three days later. You are supposed to educate yourselves on the agenda issues in advance of the meeting. Center City Housing cannot submit their application to MN Housing Finance Agency without Council support. (Thank you Councilor Russ for voting against the motion to table.)

Councilor Fosle, I live in your district, so I am particularly disappointed in your opposition and refusal to support the Garfield Square project. I encourage you to take the next few weeks to talk to more of your constituents, as I don't think your views represent the majority. As Center City Housing Executive Director Rick Klun stated, the Esmond property improved immensely when Center City Housing took over operation; your police call numbers mislead the facts. Now this misinformation has been reported by the DNT and can influence the public adversely. Of course individuals battling chemical dependency, mental health and chronic homelessness receive more public assistance calls, this will happen regardless of where they live. I'd mention the alternative of not housing people in safe and supportive housing: dangerous congregations of squatters in abandoned buildings, resulting in fires, assaults and other public hazards. At least with supportive housing there is a chance that they will receive the care that they need.

Councilors Sipress and H. Hanson, thank you for advocating for the Lincoln Park community and our most vulnerable citizens though I wish you would have insisted upon a vote.

City leadership has grandstanded plans to resolve income disparity and provide housing for the low income and homeless population of our community. In fact, many of you ran with this goal in your platform. Act upon it! With the Garfield Square apartments, you have a chance to make good on these lofty goals. Center City Housing is an incredibly successful operation, doing good in communities all around the State. Contrary to Councilor Fosle's comment, Center City operates hundreds of individual units across the City. Part of its mission is to house those "hardest to house" individuals: those with drug and alcohol problems, mental health issues, and chronic homelessness. These individuals are humans

just like each of you, deserving of dignity, respect, and at a minimum, a safe place to live. Duluth has been a beneficiary of many projects under the Center City Housing guidance and working with the HRA; we are very lucky to have such a powerful do-good non-profit based in our City.

This is a no-brainer. I hope those of you who couldn't make a decision last night get your questions answered and ultimately support this project, which greatly benefits our City.

Sincerely,  
Dehlia Seim

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