

From: marinac123@aol.com [mailto:marinac123@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Council
Subject: Greenhouse

Good Morning Council Members,

I would like the members of the Duluth City Council to address the new Greenhouse that has been planned within steps of Denfeld High School. It is wonderful that the students at Denfeld may have the opportunity to have a Greenhouse basically on their property to further their agricultural education. However, I am disappointed in the plans for staffing this Greenhouse. I do not believe the environment will be safe for young impressionable students. The current plan for Community Action Duluth and the City of Duluth to staff "appropriate" people with possible felony backgrounds to this facility is putting the students and their families at risk.

Denfeld High School and other Western Schools have been working hard to improve the image of Denfeld, however, all that has been gained over the past few years will be lost if parents of students attending Denfeld do not feel that their student is in a safe area. I believe opportunities should be available to all citizens, yet, this is not an appropriate option. This could eventually become a breeding ground for undesirables looking for young impressionable students to bring into their web of crime. I understand many of these potential employees have had rough patches in their lives, and they certainly should be given a second chance, however, I do not believe that those opportunities should be given near school property.

Rather than providing a work rehabilitation program at this site, it would be wonderful to see the City of Duluth, and the Duluth Public Schools collaborate at this site and possibly work with the District by staffing this site with students, or making it a program similar to the Food for Thought Restaurant program at East High School. There are many retired Denfeld graduates that would love to either staff this Greenhouse, volunteer their time mentoring High School Students. This is an opportunity for the City to help repair some of the inequities between the East and West side of Duluth, and try to bring this city back together as one beautiful city.

Please consider the future of Denfeld students and the Duluth School District in your plans for this space. As the River Corridor continues their improvements for the Western side of Duluth, it is imperative that families moving into these neighborhoods feel confident that their children will attend a safe school, and will receive a good education. Without this assurance these new and improved neighborhoods will sit with empty properties, as young professional families continue their move to the Eastern side of town, or to Hermantown or Proctor in search of a safe neighborhood and school. Please consider the children's safety as you prepare plans for this site.

Thank you for your consideration,

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