

Media Advisory
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University UNITED Files Appeal on Proposed CVS Drugstore Project. Overwhelming Response from Community. Community Meeting Set to Discuss Options

University UNITED's board voted unanimously this week to file an appeal with the St. Paul City Council, asking them to overturn the recent City Planning Commission decision to approve the site plan for the proposed CVS drugstore on the northwest corner of University and Snelling Avenues. UNITED put out a call to the community for contributions to help defray the \$415 filing fee, and the response has been overwhelming. Approximately \$800 has already been received or pledged. UNITED is deeply appreciative of the extraordinary show of support from the community. Bill Gahr, President of University UNITED said, "It is particularly exciting to see the level of support from the local business community, recognizing that our efforts to promote high quality, pedestrian friendly development are in their best interests. Given this enthusiastic response, I see an opportunity to reach out more aggressively to these enlightened business leaders, and will be recommending that at our next Board meeting we consider expanding the number of business seats from six to eight." UNITED currently has 6 businesspeople and 12 representatives of community organizations on its 18-member Board. UNITED is a coalition of community groups and businesspeople dedicated to improving University Avenue from the State Capitol to the University of Minnesota.

Has CVS Made Enough Improvement to Their Building Design?

**Tuesday March 23 6:30 PM
Hamline Midway Coalition
1564 Lafond Avenue, (Snelling and Lafond) St. Paul**

Velmeir Companies, local developer for CVS, has recently made a number of improvements to the proposed building design. Brian McMahon, Executive Director of University UNITED says, "University UNITED continues to believe that the building does not meet the criteria of transit-oriented development, the spirit of the City's Comprehensive Plan, or recently adopted community plans for the area. But UNITED recognizes that our position is only as strong as the community support behind it."

Therefore University UNITED and the Hamline Midway Coalition are holding a community meeting next Tuesday to get feedback regarding the revised design. Representatives of the Velmeir Companies, CVS' local developer, have been invited to the meeting and have indicated that they will attend. The revised drawings will be presented, and can also be viewed on UNITED's website at www.universityunited.com. If the majority opinion is that the design is acceptable, UNITED will withdraw its appeal.