

# Père Marquette Jesuit Community

726 North 34th Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-3301  
Telephone: (414) 342-7503

Judiciary and Legislative Committee  
City of Milwaukee

September 14, 2001

Chair and members of the Committee,

Though a previous pastoral commitment precludes my attendance, as Superior of the Pere Marquette Jesuit Community at 726 N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street I wish to add my support to the request of the local community organization and Marquette University High School.

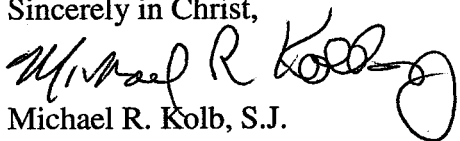
Throughout the summer, the property at 735 N. 34 Street has been a blight on our street and neighborhood. We have regularly called the City of Milwaukee police and various city departments to complain about a number of activities at that address. A minor difficulty is the poor appearance of the property, constantly strewn with litter and with trash barrels constantly at curbside. The structure itself appears neglected and in poor repair, missing large sections of siding. Somewhat more disturbing is the noise that centers on the property: loud music from car radios and the honking of car horns continue regularly late into the night. The traffic activity, the amount of loitering at the property, and the recent shooting, lead us, untrained as we are, to strongly suspect the property is a center for drug sales. Indeed, one student visiting our home for a prayer meeting was approached with by one of the loiterers at the property with an offer to sell marijuana.

This is more than unpleasant. Members of my community have stated that they are afraid to be on the street, particularly after dark. This is certainly a new reality in what was a rather quiet, pleasant street before this summer.

The absentee owner of this property has insulted and cheapened our neighborhood by his inattention to the appearance of the building. More seriously, his complete neglect to screen or demand a minimal standard of behavior by the tenants, or perhaps to control who regularly has access to the property has made our neighborhood a frightening place. This neglect has been ongoing for at least four months.

In view of all of this, I am frankly appalled by Resolution 010686, proposing the property be returned to the owner. I ask you to reject the possibility that he resume ownership, lest you reward and even encourage such negligence throughout the city.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Michael R. Kolb, S.J.  
*Superior, Pere Marquette Jesuit Community*