



## SECIA

*(see-key-ah)*

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### *The Southeast Como Improvement Association*

*works to maintain and  
enhance the physical,  
social, and economic  
environment of our  
neighborhood.*

*Through programs that  
serve our community's  
present and future needs,  
through communication,  
stewardship, and citizen  
involvement, we strive to  
foster a sense of  
community and to promote  
the neighborhood as a  
vibrant place to live and  
work.*

May 3, 2007

Minneapolis City Council  
City Hall  
350 S 5th St, Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear City Council:

On behalf of the Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA), I am writing to you in support of the Van Cleve Court Project, located in our neighborhood at 917 13<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. It has come to SECIA's attention that the support of this project receiving Tax Increment Financing (TIF) passed through the Community Development Committee without recommendation. Project for Pride in Living (PPL) has informed us that the project is in jeopardy if they do not receive TIF dollars. We urge the City Council to continue to support this project, as they have previously done through the approval of City loan funds, housing tax credits and the acceptance of grant funds through the Metropolitan Council.

The Como neighborhood has seen a dramatic change in the composition of our housing stock. According to the University of Minnesota Impact Report, the Como neighborhood has seen 17% of its single-family homes converted into rental units since 2000. Estimates place the percentage of owner occupants at less than 25% for our entire community. The Van Cleve Court Project has the potential to add a substantial number of owner occupants back into Como, which would assist in the stabilization of our community. Many of these units will be marketed to families, something that this area of the City desperately needs.

Our community needs a mixture of residents to be truly stable and vibrant. The Van Cleve Court Project gives Como its best chance at regaining our equilibrium. The former Bunge property is currently a blight in our community and an attractive nuisance that has already cost one urban explorer her life. This redevelopment has a chance to turn one of our largest negatives into a positive. It has the chance to give our neighborhood a source of hope. Please continue to support this worthy project, and through it, our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Wendy Menken  
SECIA President