Dear St. Anthony Park Community Council,

As a resident of South St. Anthony Park for 25 years, former chair of the Community Council, former chair of a senior housing and services organization (Episcopal Homes of Minnesota) and consultant in economic and community development, I am writing to urge support for Ecumen's proposal for senior co-op housing. This considered proposal, carefully evolved with significant community input over the past many months, meets critical objectives for livability and quality of life that are long sought in our neighborhood. A top priority has been creating places for our older residents to live within reach of all the amenities that make our neighborhood great. Further, ensuring that we have more residents through projects like this makes it more likely we can retain the neighborhood businesses and services we all enjoy. In terms of quality, Ecumen is a highly regarded provider of senior services and we are fortunate that they are choosing to invest in our neighborhood and will bring competent staff and management to this project. Finally, it appears that Ecumen has followed the requirements established through neighborhood and City planning in terms of design, scale, sustainability, etc. and we should applaud their efforts instead of hindering them. It is time to move toward the vision in the 2030 Small Area Plan.

Thank you,

Ellen Watters