

High-density housing bad for community

Since its inception, the Eastside Old Town neighborhood has been culturally and economically diverse, including student rentals interspersed with owner-occupied homes, churches and schools. Most changes that have occurred during the 30-plus years that our family has lived here, including the gradual updating of infrastructure, renovation of previously neglected properties and increased number of owner-occupied homes, have been an obvious benefit to the community. But recently, there has been a disturbing trend toward excessive "high-density" development that we feel should be brought to the attention of homeowners, City Council and the overall community.

A current development under review would place a three- to four-story, 40-plus unit building for student housing in the middle of our residential neighborhood with insufficient parking to accommodate all of the proposed tenants, not to mention the parking needs of those tenants' guests.

Three houses, including one historically significant home that has degenerated due to the neglect of the proposed developer, would be torn down to accommodate this development. The developer stated at a recent proposal meeting that he thought this would be a "great thing for our


neighborhood." We feel that most people living in any neighborhood in Fort Collins would be hard-pressed to agree with that analysis. We believe that it would set a precedent toward high-density student housing and away from the healthy mix we have enjoyed until now. We understand that the developer and the city of Fort Collins stand to benefit from the development of this project but hope that those who have the power to deny this action will consider the negative effects that this will have on our community.

Gene and Kathy Watkinson,

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