

## Sonia Romero

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**From:** geruth buetow <geruthbuetow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 30, 2023 5:27 PM  
**To:** Sonia Romero  
**Subject:** rent increase and variance for Cosmopolitan Apartments

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

To: St. Paul City Council  
From: Geruth Buetow  
Date: July 30, 2023

I have lived at the Cosmopolitan Apartments for about seven years and rent has had a reasonable increase every year at about 3%. Now the Company has asked for a variance for up to 8% rent increase.

Three nights ago and last night there was a shooting right below my windows on 5th and Wacouta. The number of homeless and loiters in Mears Park have increased daily this summer. I live across from the Park and maintain a community garden there.

Safety has become a genuine issue in Mears Park and Lowertown. The Cosmopolitan is not full since many residents don't want to live in an unsafe and dirty environment. I also do not want this and do not want rents increased when living in fear is also increasing.

Please do not drive long term residents away from the Cosmopolitan and Lowertown because rents are becoming exorbitant, the neighborhood less safe, fewer retail amenities available and the area is consistently dirty.

Thank you for considering these issues