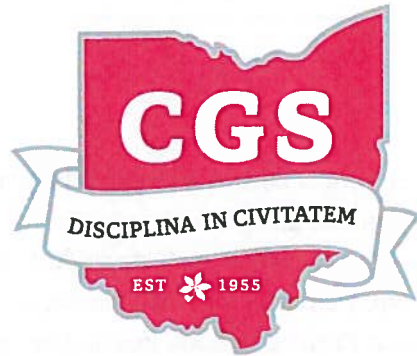


Zoning Committee
City Council
City of Columbus
90 W Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

Zoning Committee Members:

The Council of Graduate Students (“CGS”) is the student governance body at The Ohio State University representing the roughly 11,000 graduate students on OSU’s Columbus and regional campuses. As part of our service to graduate students, we appoint a representative to the University Area Commission, work hard to stay in tune with what is happening within the University Area District, and note how any changes may affect our constituents. Most recently, we are following the 142/160 King Ave development, and our delegate body has voted to weigh in on the matter. We appreciate your taking our perspective into consideration.

In their Statement of Hardship, JDS/Cityspace (“the Developer”) indicates that their proposed development (“the Project”) is targeted toward graduate students. The Developer was asked on multiple occasions by our representative whether any graduate students had been contacted for research on what kind of housing graduate students prefer, the response each time falling in the negative. In addition, our representative on the Commission extended two offers to the Developer to speak directly with the CGS body and/or other OSU graduate students, but no contact was made by the Developer and no such dialogue has taken place to date.

The Project proposes twenty-three units with four bedrooms each, two units with six bedrooms each, and twenty-three units with two bedrooms each. At our most recent meeting on June 27th, the delegate body agreed that most graduate students prefer to live in a less densely populated housing arrangement than presented in the Project. In fact, graduate students already living near the proposed development may experience a decreased standard of living due to increased noise and parking congestion.

Safe, comfortable and affordable housing is a major concern for graduate students and their families, and we welcome efforts to provide such housing on and near OSU campuses. Given that graduate students are specifically mentioned in their Statement of Hardship, we regret that the Developer did not seek graduate student feedback for the proposed Project, thereby missing an opportunity to learn about the housing wants of a population to whom they claim the Project is targeted.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large loop on the left and a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

7/7/14

Josh Coy
President, The Council of Graduate Students
2088 Ohio Union
1739 N High St
Columbus, OH 43210