

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

SB 346

Request to appear in person

Robert Gibbons
Senate District: 7

Chair McGinn, Vice Chair Bowers, Ranking Minority member Francisco, and members of the Committee,

I'm writing this testimony in support of SB 346

My name is Bob Gibbons. I am retired and qualify as a senior citizen. I have owned and lived in two homes in Prairie Village for a collective of 16 years.

Our first home was on a nice lot and had a good “bones,” but took us years and thousands to bring it up to what it you would call current.

But we loved it. There was always something that was in the process of being updated. The neighborhood was quiet, had great neighbors, well kempt yards and even flowers in the yards. The house became “ours.” The realtor emphasized that it is a single owner neighborhood and would stay this way forever.

Our second house was in great shape when we bought it. It too was in a “single family” neighborhood. But the block has many homes in the 50-year age. Many are being demolished and rebuilt.

I learned that the City of Prairie Village was considering “amending” the codes to allow multiple family homes to be built in single-family neighborhoods. Apparently, the mayor and his handpicked board decided that it would be a benefit to amend the codes in every neighborhood to allow duplexes. There was no evidence that there was a movement from owners to change the zone.

It **just isn't right** to change a single-family zoned home to anything else unless a majority of the owners agree to it and even then, I don't think it's OK.

A US Supreme Court Justice refers to the natural law saying that some things are just wrong and should not be allowed regardless of any law to establish it. Murder should not be allowed, law or not. This is the same. It just isn't right to promise a lifetime situation and then cancel it.

Thank you,

Bob Gibbons