

Subject:

Project at 313-327 Braun Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan

From: Dana Redhuis**Sent:** Sunday, June 30, 2024 4:00 PM**To:** cmb@midwesternconsulting.com; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Project at 313-327 Braun Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Hello,

I'm Dana Redhuis, and I have lived in Ann Arbor for several years. One of the motivating features of my moving to Ann Arbor was because it seemed like a safe haven for me and others in the queer community in a world that isn't always accepting. One of my favorite places in Ann Arbor is Braun court. I remember being 18 and going to Common Language for the first time, finally able to be surrounded by my own community. A few years later I had my first date with my wife at Aut Bar, just a door away from the then-closed bookshop. I have spent the last few years as a regular at Braun Court bar, attending and organizing queer events. All three of these businesses closed due to drastically increasing rents and living prices during rocky economies and pandemics. Now I hear that the location where these businesses used to thrive has been bought by an LLC that's going to put condos in.

This is devastating. This is was such a center for queer community and queer life in Ann arbor, and now it's going to be a place that's closed off and unaffordable to the community members that used to frequent it? And this construction is likely being done by the very same landlords are pushed out those businesses (that's just speculation on my part but something doesn't add up here to me)?

I know there is a community center going in nearby. I know condos are a great way to make money these days. But I find it so tragic that the place where so many queer people found community and found a space where they could be themselves is now just going to be unaffordable condos. If these condos go up according to plan, there has to be something done to rectify the loss to the community that they have caused. They have to be affordable, they have to pay homage to the community that used to be here in some way, or they have to allow some kind of business to still take place in this area.

I don't know if you're the right person to email about this, I don't know if you will even see this or read it all the way through. I'm just begging someone who has the power to change this plan to see the value of this place as something more than a money grab. I can't stand to see the soul of this place be lost, in the same way that queer centers have been lost in so many cities in the US.

Thank you for listening, and I am looking forward to attending your virtual meeting on July 11.