

**Subject:**

NO on the rezoning for Owl Creek Phase 2

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**From:** Sonja Srinivasan**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 5:12 PM**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Manor, Courtney <CManor@a2gov.org>**Subject:** NO on the rezoning for Owl Creek Phase 2

Dear Planning Commission,

As a resident of Barclay Park in Ann Arbor who lives near Owl Creek, I oppose the rezoning. I think I can say hundreds of others would agree, as we are in close proximity to the proposed building, and do not want the disturbance of noise, dust, and other construction issues. This may also disturb the natural habitat of a number of animals and living creatures and the ecosystem.

Also, I feel that the city of Ann Arbor has been abusing the privilege of rezoning to build high-rise buildings to deal with the housing shortage. While normally I am a strong supporter of environmental issues (I did a group project on land use and infill development while at Stanford University in the Bay Area), and infill development is often ecologically friendly, the rash of high-rise buildings and infill development in downtown Ann Arbor is destroying the character and quality of life. Small businesses are not able to thrive, and over the past decades, we have seen the rise of franchises and corporate chains pricing out local businesses. I have known Ann Arbor since 1976, and while it is exciting to see how prosperous it is becoming, the way in which it is accomplished creates concern.

As someone who has lived in New York City, San Diego, the Bay Area, and spent a lot of time in London, I can say that this sort of high-rise/luxury condo or apartment construction has perpetuated economic and class inequality in the long run. The city says that they will provide for affordable housing, but these options can't just be for a handful of Section 8 housing units. What of ordinary working people and families and support staff for local businesses and the university? In California, these people end up buying housing quite far from the workplace, and spend 1-2 hours commuting in, because that is all they can afford. Ann Arbor is not a large metropolitan area, but you need to think long-term if you want true diversity of population across \*class,\* and not just race, sexual orientation, religion, etc. There are a lot of dangers in creating a city based solely on a high-tech and professional economy--only those people may be able to afford the luxury real-estate being developed downtown and even on the periphery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sonja Srinivasan

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