

June 3, 2014

To: Ann Arbor City Planning Commission

From: Gwen Nystuen, 1016 Olivia Ave.

Re: Application for Special Exception Use as a "functional family" by Society of Jesus

This falls under Chapter 5: 7 Residential Occupancy

5:7 (4)

In this section, functional family means a group of people plus their offspring, having a relationship which is functionally equivalent to a family. The relationship must be of a permanent and distinct character with a demonstrable and recognizable bond characteristic of a cohesive unit. Functional family does not include any society, club, fraternity, sorority, association, lodge, organization or group of students or other individuals where the common living arrangement or basis for the establishment of the housekeeping unit is temporary.

The group of four persons described as a peer and three associates in their application could, of course, live in any single dwelling unit in the city, and such a group may call itself anything it wishes including "functional family". However what has been described is not a "functional family" under the city definitions, nor are the member permanent. What is described is **a groups of individuals where the common living arrangements is the basis for establishing the housekeeping unit.**

To be granted the status of "functional family" under city code definition, the proposed family should show **that it is an existing permanent family**. It is not clear that the four persons are currently so operating. Instead this is a proposed group that plans to add two additional persons and believe that by requesting to be recognized as a functional family of six they will qualify to live in R1 creating a **group home** that would not otherwise be accepted. Their description is not of an existing permanent family. It has not been shown that six individuals have an existing permanent bond similar to that of a family that shares all property and responsibility for health and care of its members similar to a biological family.

This is a proposal to create a living group of six that is not currently a permanent family and who will be bringing in different individual members regularly. The group is further associated by their affiliation as **members of a society. What is described here is a co-op**. Many exist in the city. In formally recognized co-ops the maintenance of the home, the expenses, legal rental lease, or ownership of all property, shopping, work, cooking, cleaning, and care of members is shared by all by agreement.

Please deny this Special Exception functional family request. This group is not a permanent family, but rather **a proposal to be a small group co-op based on a mutual society**.

Question: If any group of over 4 unrelated adults were granted status as "special exception functional family" wouldn't those members be listed by name and be permanent? For example if there is a "functional family" of 7 individuals and individual #2 leaves, then isn't the family now a family of 6 as happens with traditional families? Is the granting of status as a functional family given to a list of named individuals that may not be changed?