

✓
To: Mayor and members of City Council, City of Ann Arbor

Date: December 17, 2007

RE: Lower Burns Park Neighborhood, resolution R-07-489

CITY OF ANN ARBOR

07DEC 20 P2:00

Ann Arbor is a great place to raise a family. Despite all the talk of being a "Cool City", with its emphasis on single professionals, it is the family-friendly qualities of the town which continue to attract and retain residents.

"Lower Burns Park", home to many middle-class families, is currently under threat by "investors" buying single-family homes and converting them into multi-person dwellings. This neighborhood of modest homes was built in the 1920s for households that could manage with one bathroom and one car. When converted into multi-person (and multi-car) rental properties, backyards are graveled and turned into parking lots, parties roar into the early morning hours, and buildings fall into disrepair. No parent wants to raise children in such an environment, so as "investors" move in, families move out.

Why should we care if families leave the city? Without middle-class families, the quality of life in Ann Arbor would decline. When families move out, they often relocate to the outer suburbs — this contributes to urban sprawl. When families move out, enrollment in public schools decline — this leads to reduced financial support and failing schools. When families move out, businesses follow — this reduces the prosperity of the city.

I urge the City Council to approve the citizens' request to rezone Lower Burns Park in support of middle-class families (Resolution R-07-489).

P.A. Kusnerz

Peggy Ann Kusnerz

Resident of Ann Arbor since 1965

Resident of Lower Burns Park

804 Sycamore Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

663-3724

lily@umich.edu