

From: Vivian Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Planning
Cc: mark2243@yahoo.com; m_johnson21@sky.com
Subject: planning commission letter

My husband and I live in Ann Arbor Hills in Ward 2. We fully support the Jesuit application for an exception that is before the planning commission.

Let the laws that are in place decide this exception request.

Many people who oppose this are saying "We think the Jesuits would be wonderful neighbors but" They think and want you to think that they are being respectful. However their additional statements often are very disrespectful.

The president of ONA (Mark Morel) has still not notified the ONA general membership that he has hired an attorney with ONA membership dues and is opposing the exception. He and attorney Scott Munzel who he hired have put some disrespectful statements in their letters to the planning commission, I would like to address a few of them –

The opposing attorney seeks to add onerous legal restrictions to the Jesuits that would never be required for "Traditional families". He appears to be trying to prolong the process in an attempt to get the house put back on the market.

1. Special recording of deed
2. Require that they get PERMANENT WRITTEN PERMISSION from the adjacent church to park there because the church MAY change its mind.
3. Limit the number of Jesuits living there who could be graduate students. We don't regulate how many graduate students can live at home with their families and the Jesuits have stated that there may be 1.

The ONA president says they are not a functional family because a family is a group where individuals make vows to each other and not to the Pope. His statement is offensive. I am not a Catholic but many of us have commitments to a number of organizations like our country, our place of worship, our military services, etc. Also, people live together and have children without the vows of marriage but they are still a family.

ONA is one organization that is currently clearly not very functional.

The ONA president says there MAY be changes to the property which could preclude its return to single family use. Again an offensive statement as the Jesuit application clearly states their intentions in their request. Anything MAY happen!!! We can't make this decision based on what MAY happen.

The ONA president goes on to say that the Jesuits can find housing in other neighborhoods. That is also offensive.

The ONA president statements and reasoning sound a lot like those used in the not too distant past to keep African Americans, Jews, and other groups from moving into our neighborhoods.

I respectfully ask that the planning committee not give credence to the ONA presidents and ONA lawyers comments. [These additional restriction would be discriminatory.](#) Bigotry, exclusion, and prejudice have no place in our society or neighborhood.

Please allow the exception as recommended by the Planning Commission staff and attorneys and let neighborhood members get on with our busy lives.

And, I would like to welcome the Jesuits to the other side of Washtenaw. I am indeed sure that they will be wonderful neighbors as they have been for 10 years living on Ferdon ½ mile away [and that the vast majority of neighbors will welcome them with open arms.](#)

[Vivian Johnson](#)