

**Bowden (King), Anissa**

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**From:** Waddell, Dena on behalf of CityClerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2013 4:56 PM  
**To:** Bowden (King), Anissa  
**Subject:** FW: Please distribute to City Council prior to the meeting this evening



**Dena Clegg-Waddell, Administrator/Assistant City of Ann Arbor | City Clerk's Office | [dwaddell@cityofannarbor.org](mailto:dwaddell@cityofannarbor.org) | 301 E Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48107 | Direct dial (734) 794-6140 Ext. 41405 |**

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**From:** Martin Vloet [<mailto:mvloet@umich.edu>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 08, 2013 4:32 PM  
**To:** CityClerk  
**Subject:** Please distribute to City Council prior to the meeting this evening

Ann Arbor City Council Members:

I live on Berkley Avenue, two doors off Main Street in the middle of the proposed Main Street closure on Michigan football Saturdays. I am writing to lend my voice to the resounding opposition by residents to the proposal. I was not in town to attend the public meeting but am aware that the clear message from my neighbors was against the proposal. I regret that the most public City Council support for the closures come from city wards unaffected by the proposal.

Having grown up in a military family, I am well aware--and quite supportive--of the need for sensible measures to ensure the safety of the community against terrorist threats. I also understand the desire to protect the pedestrian traffic surrounding a massive public event. I don't believe street closures are failsafes against threats, global or...well, pedestrian. Threats at a Homeland Security level are not likely to be thwarted by published street closures. At best, destructive forces will be routed through family neighborhoods one their way to the stadium. Regarding foot traffic: the widening of the sidewalks around the Big House should have allayed fears of Main Street pedestrian dangers. As a Michigan Stadium neighbor, I can speak to the affect on pedestrian traffic on side streets extending off Main Street. They turn into defacto block parties with eating, drinking and play pouring into the only remaining residential thoroughfares. The pedestrian concern shifts from a single, well-maintained, AND POLICED route on Main to the dozens of congested neighborhood streets that will be overrun by 12-year-old and 40-year-old weekend athletes who are not paying attention to the frustrated drivers trying to navigate a game day detour.

I bought a home in the shadow of the Big House with the full knowledge that I should not choose to run errands on six to eight Saturdays in the fall. I covered my ears when stadium renovations woke me each morning for several summers. As one who enjoys the game and the game day excitement, I saw a long-term benefit to the short-term inconvenience. I don't see that here. It appears that the closure does little to address the big issues of security. Instead, it pushes those insecurities firmly into the residential neighborhoods. Closing Main Street seems to benefit a single large entity while ignoring hundreds of others in the process.

I support the idea of community security, but urge you to find a better way to achieve it.

Sincerely,  
Martin Vloet  
312 Berkley Ave.  
Ann Arbor