

**From:** Ann Shields [mailto:shieldsa@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:07 PM  
**To:** Rampson, Wendy; DiLeo, Alexis  
**Subject:** 1919 Wayne

Dear Planning Commission:

We are writing to express our opposition to the petition, which you will consider at your June 3 meeting, to allow a group-living situation in an Ann Arbor home that has been zoned as single-family residential: 1919 Wayne.

We were alerted to this possibility because we live within 500 feet of the property, but many of our neighbors outside of the 500-foot limit have expressed their concerns. I know that you will be hearing from our neighbors and from our neighborhood association, and we hope that you will carefully consider their feedback.

The petitioner (the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, Saint Ignatius Trust) hopes to remodel the home and house there "a group of Jesuits working at St. Mary's Student Parish and/or pursuing studies at the University of Michigan."

In order to convert the home from single-family to a group-living situation, the purchaser is requesting a zoning exemption that would define the inhabitants (Jesuit staff and students affiliated with St. Mary's parish at the UM) as a "functional family."

As you know, the city code defines a functional family as ... "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."

We do not think that the proposed inhabitants meet the criteria for a "functional family" for the following reasons:

- (1) The definition of functional family excludes societies, yet the petition was filed on behalf of the Society of Jesus.
- (2) The definition specifies that the exemption may be granted only for a group of people (plus offspring) with permanent and enduring ties, a cohesive family bond. Staff and students who are brought together because of their ties to St. Mary's parish do not seem to qualify, as their connections are founded in their appointments at the parish, related to their study and their employment, rather than to family ties.
- (3) The definition excludes individuals where the common living arrangement is temporary; students who are completing studies or time-limited pastoral appointments

at the UM will be here on a temporary basis. According to St. Marys' website, for example, peer ministers are affiliated with the parish for just one year.

Because this organization does not appear to meet criteria for 'functional family,' we respectfully request that you reject this petition and thereby preserve the residential quality of the surrounding neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Ann Shields

Mark Bohm

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