

City of Ann Arbor
Attn. City Council
P O box 8647
Ann Arbor, Mi 48107

The Mayor and Members of Council

The day after the primaries, everyone is feeling like the citizens of Ann Arbor have spoken that the council members are on the right track here in Ann Arbor and the citizens trust your decision making. Council should not be so quick to interpret the results in this way! The cast of challengers did not in my view pose a worthy 'other' choice. Running for election takes money, fund raising ability and connections. This does not open the field up to everyone, nor necessarily the 'best' one for the job.

What the Mayor and Council needs to hear is that as citizens we are tired of two important things currently going on in Ann Arbor. Improvements to the city need to encompass the entirety of Ann Arbor not pouring every dime into the Downtown. As I drove south on N. Main to the end of the shopping district at William, I was struck by the sign and clutter pollution. Every pole had a sign or flag, ART circles bolted to the sidewalks, bike racks in the streets, intrusive Blue directions signs for points of interest...DOWNTOWN, plus the usual clutter of plastic tables, chairs and half dead shrubs surrounding the plastic. Whose vision was this? For 2 years we've been frustrated by trying to get our small neighborhood Mallets Bridge fixed between Morehead Ct and Delaware ...no money we are told. Supposedly it was tied to the Ann Arbor/Saline road creek bridge project. That was fixed--before a citizen got hit getting around the barricades (law suit)-- but not our bridge. Obviously we need yet another sign, flag, bike rack or new-age parking meter for Downtown!

The other important thing you all need to hear is that you do not represent everyone even though you were elected. As citizens of this city we wish to have more voting on issues that impact us even if this slows your decision making process. The 2 current downtown construction projects should have been put to a vote by the people. Recently council members rushed through a new traffic law about pedestrians approaching the crosswalks. We now not only have to watch behind us when we drive, watch the guy ahead, we now have to read the mind of the person moving in the direction of the crosswalk. Let's hope the guy behind us realizes we are in our 'mind reading mode' when we hit the brakes and wait to see what the 'approaching walker' will ultimately decide to do. I thought traffic lights were an aid to people wishing to cross a street. Council oversteps its bounds. We want more issues decided by voters not some elected official that says he speaks for me. What makes you think I voted for you.

Council members need to hear a different message from voters...not just the message you want to hear or think you hear.

Paul Dight