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Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:25 PM
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Steve Kaplan [REDACTED]; Susan Wineberg [REDACTED]
Subject: Input to Sign Ordinance Revision

We understand that the latest revision to the sign ordinance is still in process. Without seeing the updated version, it is difficult to comment. However, based, on the recent staff report and the December version, we would like to make the following statement:

The Old Fourth Ward Association Board recognizes that in this pandemic the work of the Planning staff has become more complicated. While we have closely followed the steps taken to revise the sign ordinance, we recognize the challenge for the planning staff to come up with a revision that meets legal requirements, considers the commercial sector, and accommodates neighborhood interests. It is difficult to come up with an ordinance that will please everyone.

We are pleased that the current plans involve reducing the size of single-family and duplex rental signs. That will reduce visual clutter and reduce interference with the public seeing key historic features. We are satisfied that the enforcement of temporary and non-compliant signs can use satellite street view shots for documentation. In our historic district, we appreciate that the historic commission will consider further measures to ensure that the historic character of buildings will not be diminished.

We remain concerned that non-compliant permanent signs will be grandfathered and that temporary signs will be difficult to enforce. We think it would be reasonable to include a sunset provision on non-conforming residential signs. Yet, we remain confident that the enforcement staff will work with us to resolve the most egregious violations.

Therefore, we will not oppose this sign ordinance revision when it goes to Council if does not perfectly align with our preferences. The Council has enough on its plate without rangling about the details of signs, especially during this Pandemic.

In closing, thank you for all do in behalf of the citizens of Ann Arbor,

Respectfully,
Jeff Crockett
Communications Officer.