

From: Paul Gargaro
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 12:31 PM
To: Planning; Postema, Stephen
Subject: Jesuit Community on Wayne Street

Dear Planning Commission Members:

My name is Paul Gargaro. I am a City of Ann Arbor resident and a member of the St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor. I write today in support of the Jesuits' petition to receive a special exception use so that they can live at 1919 Wayne Street.

Jesuits at St. Mary's parish have served our family and our parish extraordinarily well for the past 10 years. I know many of these men many personally, and continue to be impressed by their hard work and devotion, including their efforts to promote social justice in our community and beyond. I am proud and grateful that these outstanding men call our parish home. I am certain that I share this belief with the thousands of University of Michigan students and families who attend and are served by St. Mary's. The Jesuits have a proud heritage in Ann Arbor that includes Fr. Gabriel Richard, a Jesuit, who co-founded the University of Michigan and was instrumental in our state's early development.

I also know neighbors of the Jesuits on Ferdon Street, who have enjoyed the Jesuits' presence in the neighborhood and have experienced none of the potential issues raised by opponents of the Jesuits' Wayne Street petition. I am also aware of residents in the Wayne Street neighborhood who were either unaware of or who do not share the Oxbridge Neighborhood Association's resistance to the Jesuits' appeal. I hope you will hear from these homeowners.

I also hope that a final vote on this petition will be held at a time when all members of the planning commission can be present to give this matter the attention and respect it deserves. I do hope that you will support their request. I believe the Jesuits are an asset to our city and would be excellent residents of the Wayne Street neighborhood.

Thank you very much.

Paul Gargaro

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