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City of Ann Arbor Planning & Development Services  
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**SUBJECT:** Ann Arbor Jesuit Community Special Exception Use  
1919 Wayne Street  
**File No.** SEU14-006

Dear Planning Commission,

Father Reim said it best. He does not get to decide where he lives or what he does in the Society of Jesus; someone else above him makes that decision, for him and for all Jesuits. The men, who may live at 1919 Wayne Street with this Planning Commission's approval, cannot and will not decide if they live there. There are possibly 1,500 or more Jesuit men who may rotate in and out of 1919 Wayne Street, not 6. The men living in the house will not have purchased it themselves nor be the actual owners of the property. Therefore, you should reject this special exception for at least two reasons: **a)** a functional family by definition will voluntarily be living together—individuals choosing to be a family—and this is not true of the Jesuits (they do not choose themselves to live there) and **b)** the “functional family” is not actually paying for the house, but instead an organization in another state with some of the deepest business pockets on earth is. At best, they would be considered renters. So the men who will potentially live there actually cannot decide to live there for themselves, nor will they own the property themselves. So where is the functional family in this situation? It does not exist. Please take off your rose colored glasses!

You may have noticed that, since we submitted our correspondence to you on April 27, 2014 imploring you to take seriously the demonstrated sexism and historic misogyny and oppression of women perpetrated by the Jesuits as an Association, not one person, whether they be Planning Commission members, City of Ann Arbor staff, or member of the public, who has responded either in person or in writing, especially those who have been the most vitriolic, has mentioned discrimination toward women or taken up the cause of opposing the oppression of women. This silence, sadly, is not surprising or unusual. Just ask the Jesuits.

Kudos to Commissioner Giannola for standing her ground ethically throughout—the only one to do so. We would like to think that she is opposing discrimination toward women in a quiet way which, from the evidence of the thundering silence or vitriol, is indeed the safest way.

For our neighbors and Planning Commission members who so passionately or quietly demonstrate that misogyny has no place in this discussion, we would like to acquaint you with the word “patriarchy.” The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company defines patriarchy:

**Patriarchy:** 1. A social system in which the father is the head of the family and men have authority over women and children. 2. A family, community, or society based on this system or governed by men.

The Jesuits and their defenders might choose to overlook the Jesuit and Catholic patriarchal past and present, but we do not. It would appear that our neighbors will stand up for everyone's rights except women's. Sadly, their silence on this matter supports our arguments in a way we wish it didn't. Again, they are probably doing the safe thing.

As Elizabeth said in your June 3, 2014 hearing (before the Commission shamefully stood on its head to reverse itself so a home sale could take place) on this matter:

"Passing this special exception use is equivalent of gender housing discrimination. If the family who lived across the street from us wanted to sell their house to an unrelated group of people who discriminated against Germans but met the special exception otherwise my husband and I would be opposed to such a special exception. If the family who lived across the street from us wanted to sell their house to an unrelated group of people who discriminated against black people but met the special exception otherwise we would be opposed to such a special exception. If the family who lived across the street from us wanted to sell their house to an unrelated group of people who discriminated against blind people but met the special exception otherwise we would be opposed to such a special exception. If the family who lived across the street from us wanted to sell their house to an unrelated group of people who discriminated against Queer and Trans people but met the special exception otherwise we would be opposed to such a special exception.

Finally, if the family who lived across the street from us wanted to sell their house to an unrelated group of people who discriminated against **WOMEN** but met the special exception use otherwise we would be opposed to such a special exception.

How can Ann Arbor, the place that I love to live—we take pride living in a city which appreciates and defends diversity and civil rights—do not let this be discrimination against women. This has happened in our whole society, around the whole world—take your rose colored glasses off—this is gender discrimination. It's in the Catholic Church; it's in the Society of Jesus and its right here in front of you. Please do not vote for this. Please take it back, talk to the attorneys, look at this better than you have. I appreciate your time, and I'm thankful for your consideration."

Your committee, with no less or more information or analysis than they had at midnight, voted to not extend the discussion for two weeks, then voted 5-2 to not pass the motion. Then, when all the public was gone and thinking this matter settled, you reversed yourself with the same vague and irrelevant points that were posed before the first two votes.

Sincerely,



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