

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Planning Commission

FROM: Wendy L. Rampson, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: **Downtown Zoning Evaluation Recommendations**

DATE: October 15, 2013

### STAFF REPORT

The Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown (A2D2) initiative provided a comprehensive update of the City's downtown zoning, transportation, urban design and historic preservation plans and codes. The A2D2 effort culminated in the adoption of downtown zoning amendments in 2009, in coordination with amendments to the Downtown Plan.

In March and April 2013, City Council passed resolutions (attached) directing the Planning Commission to review several aspects of these downtown zoning changes and provide recommendations for any necessary amendments. In July 2013, the planning firm of ENP & Associates was hired to assist in this evaluation.

Between July and October 2013, ENP & Associates provided a variety of opportunities for the public to comment on the effects of the 2009 amendments and offer suggestions for changes. The consultants met with the Planning Commission's Ordinance Revisions Committee throughout the process. The attached report provides a summary of the public input and the consultant's final recommendations for zoning changes.

Please note the following substantive changes that have been made to the October 4, 2013 draft report:

- Ann Street site: expanded the area recommended for D2 zoning to include the Municipal Center site and recommended the extension of the E Huron 2 character area westward
- Huron Street site: provided new visuals for the diagonal, and included specifics on the maximum diagonal (130')
- William Street site: provided new visuals and included specifics on the maximum diagonal (50% of the maximum parcel diagonal); also included the idea of split zoning on the parcel

Attachments: 3/18/13 Council Resolution  
4/1/13 Council Resolution  
10/15/13 Draft Resolution  
10/10/13 Final Downtown Zoning Evaluation Recommendations Report with  
Appendices (separate files)

c: City Attorney's Office



# City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/  
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

## Council Action

**Resolution: R-13-078**

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**File Number: 13-0170**

**Enactment Number: R-13-078**

### Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Planning Commission to Review D1/D2 Zoning and Make Recommendations to Amend the Current D1 Zoning Regulations

Whereas, The hybrid zoning standards provided in D1 (Downtown Core) zoning for the downtown have been established since 2009;

Whereas, A sufficient number of projects have been proposed under the new zoning to provide the necessary data; and

Whereas, City Council seeks to ensure that all development in the D1 zoning district is consistent with the adjacent residentially-zoned districts and that all new buildings fit sensitively into the existing development context as noted in the City's Master Plans;

Whereas, City Council also seeks to ensure that high rise buildings have minimum negative impacts in terms of scale, shading and views as noted in the City's Master Plans;

Whereas, City Council recognizes the irreplaceable physical, cultural and historical attributes of the City's downtown and surrounding neighborhoods that the City could lose if the underlying review and subsequent modification of the City's zoning ordinances do not take place;

Resolved, That the City Council directs the Planning Commission to review recently approved and recommended site plans in the D1 zoning district to determine whether these zoning standards provide clear, understandable requirements regarding both form and use and at the same time conform to and carry out the goals of the City's Master Plan, Downtown Plan and Character Overlay Districts; and

Resolved, That City Council provide the Planning Commission with a scope of work and a timeline by April 1, 2013.

Sponsored by: Briere and Kunselman

### **As Amended by Ann Arbor City Council on March 18, 2013**

At a meeting of the City Council on 3/18/2013, a motion was made by Sabra Briere, seconded by Stephen Kunselman, that this Resolution R-13-078 be Approved as Amended. The motion passed.



# City of Ann Arbor

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## Council Action

**Resolution: R-13-093**

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**File Number: 13-0354**

**Enactment Number: R-13-093**

### Resolution Directing the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission to Review Specific D1 Zoning

Whereas, Ann Arbor City Council passed Enactment No: R-13-078 on March 18, 2013, a Resolution to Direct the Ann Arbor Planning Commission to Review D1/D2 Zoning and Make Recommendations to Amend the Current D1 Zoning Regulations, as amended (the "Resolution");

Whereas, The Resolution provides general direction to the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission as to the nature and timing of the requested review; and

Whereas, City Council wishes to provide more specific requests to the Planning Commission to better facilitate their consideration;

RESOLVED, That City Council requests the City Planning Commission to specifically address these issues: (i) whether D1 zoning is appropriately located on the north side of Huron Street between Division and S. State and the south side of William Street between S. Main and Fourth Avenue; (ii) whether the D1 residential FAR premiums effectively encourage a diverse downtown population; and (iii) consider a parcel on the south side of Ann St. adjacent to north of city hall that is currently zoned D1 to be rezoned to the appropriate zoning for this neighborhood; and

RESOLVED, That City Council requests that Planning Commission complete its review and report to the City Council by October 1, 2013.

Sponsored by Councilmembers Higgins, Taylor and Briere

At a meeting of the City Council on 4/1/2013, a motion was made by Sabra Briere, seconded by Chuck Warpehoski, that this Resolution R-13-093 be Approved. The motion passed.

## **Proposed Resolution regarding Downtown Zoning Recommendations**

Whereas, Downtown zoning amendments were adopted in 2009 as a result of the Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown initiative;

Whereas, The City Planning Commission and City Council recognize the value of evaluating these zoning changes to determine if the resulting development is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the Downtown Plan;

Whereas, City Council passed resolutions R-13-078 and R-13-093 in March and April 2013 that requested the City Planning Commission to address the following issues:

- (i) Whether D1 zoning is appropriately located on the north side of Huron Street between Division and S. State and the south side of William Street between S. Main and Fourth Avenue;
- (ii) Whether the D1 residential FAR premiums effectively encourage a diverse downtown population;
- (iii) Whether a parcel on the south side of Ann St. adjacent to City Hall that is currently zoned D1 should be rezoned to the appropriate zoning for this neighborhood;

Whereas, ENP & Associates was hired by the City in July 2013 to conduct an evaluation of the downtown zoning changes;

Whereas, ENP & Associates provided a variety of opportunities for the public to comment on the effects of the 2009 amendments and offer suggestions for changes and developed a report with recommendations, dated October 10, 2013;

RESOLVED, the City Planning Commission, after reviewing the consultant's recommendations and considering comments presented at a public hearing on October 15, 2013, forwards the following recommendations to City Council:

- 1) Rezone the parcel located at 336 E. Ann from D1 (Downtown Core) to D2 (Downtown Interface).
- 2) Rezone the Municipal Center parcel from PL to D2 (Downtown Interface)
- 3) Reduce the maximum height in the East Huron 1 Character District to 120 feet and add a tower diagonal maximum of 130 feet.
- 4) Rezone the D-zoned parcels on the block bounded by Huron, Division, Ann and Fifth Avenue from E. Huron 2 Character Overlay District to East Huron 1 Character Overlay District.
- 5) Change the maximum height in the Main Street Character District to 150 feet when within 20 feet of a residentially zoned area and add a tower diagonal requirement of 50% of the maximum parcel diagonal.
- 6) Rezone the south half of the parcel at 425 S. Main from D1 (Downtown Core) to D2 (Downtown Interface).
- 7) Require approval of the Design Review Board for a project to be eligible for any premium.
- 8) Revise the residential premium to be more specific about the types of units that will be eligible for premiums.
- 9) Revise the affordable housing premium so that the provision of affordable housing is mandatory for receiving any premiums.
- 10) Eliminate the affordable housing 900% FAR "super premium".
- 11) Include other types of premiums in addition to the ones currently available.