

From: Chad Bailey
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 2:35 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Comment on Jesuit application for special exception at 1919 Wayne

Dear Distinguished Commissioners,

My name is Chad Bailey and I live at 2800 Tuebingen Pkwy, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. I am writing to urge you to approve the application of the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, Saint Ignatius Trust (hereafter referred to as "Jesuits") for a special exception application permit to allow them to live at 1919 Wayne Street.

I have known Ann Arbor's Jesuits since they first began as pastors of Saint Mary's Student Parish near Campus, and have been especially close in recent years with the current pastoral team. I can attest to the Jesuits' integrity and respect for those around them. I heartily believe that they would be good neighbors to the residents surrounding 1919 Wayne Street.

The Jesuits contribute to the vitality and well-being of the City of Ann Arbor as a whole. The Jesuits' work in caring for the homeless and providing warming shelters at St. Mary's during 2013-2014's record-breaking winter provides just one example of how they provide service and cultivate care among students and residents for those in difficult positions. The Father Gabriel Richard Lecture Series run by the Jesuits brings high-quality thinkers and speakers to Ann Arbor, with numerous lectures jointly sponsored by other local organizations such as University of Michigan's Ross Business School and the Women's Studies Program. Lastly, through the promotion of "small church communities" (SCCs), the Jesuits encourage parishioners to establish lasting friendships with others at St. Mary's outside the formal boundaries of worship at the Church; I can attest that SCCs have provided much social and emotional support to people going through various types of personal struggle.

I will point out that the City's planning staff has requested that the special exception use be approved, noting that *"the proposed functional family has a relationship that is functionally equivalent to a family and is of a permanent and distinct character with a recognizable bond characteristic of a cohesive unit , and because the proposed use is of such location, size and character as to be compatible with the zoning district in which the site is situated; and the location and size of the proposed use, its nature and intensity, the site layout and access, and effect of the proposed use on public services would not be hazardous or inconvenient to the neighborhood nor unduly conflict with the normal traffic of the neighborhood."*

In addition, I also request you to change the date of the hearing of the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission to allow all members of the Planning Commission to be present to hear testimony and vote on this very important topic.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Chad Bailey