

**From:** Susan Black [mailto:sjdblack2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2014 1:53 AM  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Support of Petitioners of 1919 Wayne

To: Planning Commission  
From Sue and Bill Black 2002 Wayne 48104

We are again writing to you in support of the the special exception requested by the Ann Arbor Jesuit Community for the purchase of 1919 Wayne. We first sent a letter of support of the petition back in April.

We have lived at 2002 Wayne for 27 years directly across from Postman's Rest Park which is adjacent to 1919 Wayne. Ours is the house with the white picket fence. We have indeed had a "wonderful life" at this address and know innumerable neighbors from walking our dog throughout the streets of the Oxbridge/ Arbor Hills/ College Heights. We hope that the gentlemen trying to make 1919 Wayne their home will soon be able to share the experience.

Innumerable neighbors and other Ann Arbor residents approached us for information about this petition exception as it started to unfold. I was saddened and surprised by some of the things we all thought and said. These are people we truly like. Some neighbors speaking against this petition exception are notable leaders in their respective places of worship, political parties, the neighborhood, the University and the community at large. But intolerance and sometimes a longstanding sense of entitlement are at work here. We get the message that some neighbors' opinions are "...more equal than others.." to borrow from a little book. What a shock it was to hear that a speaker's opinion devalued in a public meeting because of their religion.

In response and review of the most often discussed issues about this petition, here are our thoughts.

1. There are about nine ( 9) neighborhood permit parking spaces between the front of our house and in front of the park. No one uses these spaces often. The spaces are equidistant from the handful of spaces that were of concern to certain neighbors. More space available on Vinewood also.

2. If the rules are always to be followed, then why was a clause included for petitions for exceptions in the first place ?

3. "They do not meet the criteria for a functional family"----

If the staff of the planning commission felt they met the criteria and Alexis De Leo who was in charge of the project worked with the city attorney's office on this, we defer to their expertise. Our first letter was back in April asking a few questions of Alexis de Leo who was in charge of handling this project.

She was most informative, professional and is the unsung hero for comprehensive effort on her part in researching this project. She presented at the June 3 hearing with extreme preparedness. She should be acknowledged and I just did.

4. Rumors about decreased property values---- this does not bear out over time.

Apparently the real estate community was well informed about this issue long before many residents of the Oxbridge area.

I know by name one agent who encouraged a client selling a home to write to the commission against this exception because it will affect property values.

In the 27 years we lived here, 2 bed and breakfasts, New Life Church, Ozone House, Telluride House, and a Condominium have popped up in the area in addition longstanding organizations., i.e, the City Club, the Christ Scientist Church, the Lutheran church, the Presbyterian church, the Jewish synagogue, more than a half dozen sororities and fraternities that have remained.

Adjusting for inflation of the purchase price of our house, we have had a \$200,000 increase in value in 2014 dollars.

Yes, 200,000 dollars increase in value in 2014 dollars.

We are more concerned about the reputation of the neighborhood affecting property values given the way this has played out.

We apologize to the Planning Department, the Ann Arbor residents, the Planning Commission, the Jesuit Community, the Urbaniak family for the inordinate time and expense and emotional distress involved because it just feels like someone should.

I contacted the Parks department about the Adopt a Park program and adopted Postman's Rest Park on behalf of the neighborhood so we could hit a "reset button" and work on a project together no matter the outcome of the Planning commission decision.

Here's to hoping that all our "better angels" are at work again soon.

from Sue and Bill Black