

June 16, 2014

Dear Ann Arbor Planning Commission,

As a resident of Ward 2 and a longtime member of the Ann Arbor community, I would like to say that I support the acceptance of the exception of 6 Jesuits residing at 1919 Wayne Street. I find it disheartening that people living in a community that has historically claimed to be open to and accepting of non-traditional families are reacting in such a negative manner without any solid reasoning.

I support the exception for these reasons:

- This group has lived in Ann Arbor, in a neighborhood not far from Oxbridge, for approximately 10 years and have been exceptional neighbors.
- They are asking for an exception and not an overall change to the ordinance. This means that any other group wanting to do the same would have to seek an exception. Opponents saying that this will open the door for other groups to move into the area are simply not speaking the truth.
- It appears that a very small number of members of the homeowners association claim to represent the entire association, and I find this very disturbing.
- I don't believe the Jesuits living in this neighborhood will cause property values to change in a negative way. Personally, I don't understand how homeowners who live a quiet existence, keep their homes well-maintained and follow the policies of the homeowners association would negatively impact the area in any way. Honestly, I wish they were moving in next door to me!

I find it hard to believe that so much effort is being put into opposing this exception when there are any more serious issues facing our city. In my core, I feel that the opposition is mainly due to preconceived notions about this group and nonsensical fears of how they will behave as residents of this neighborhood. I feel strongly that the opposition only opens the door to preventing other non-traditional groups from moving to this amazing city.

Finally, please know that this issue will play a huge role in whether I will support any candidate running for mayor or city council that opposes the acceptance of the exception.

Sincerely,

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