

**From:** Henry Vanderploeg

**Sent:** Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:26 PM

**To:** Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>; Lenart, Brett <[BLenart@a2gov.org](mailto:BLenart@a2gov.org)>

**Cc:** Donna Malcolm <[dwmalcolm@comcast.net](mailto:dwmalcolm@comcast.net)>; Robert & Sarah Albritton <[ralbritt1@comcast.net](mailto:ralbritt1@comcast.net)>; Dave Kennard <[davekennard24@comcast.net](mailto:davekennard24@comcast.net)>; Gretchen Kennard <[KENNARDGMK@comcast.net](mailto:KENNARDGMK@comcast.net)>; Barbara Vanderploeg <[b.vanderploeg@me.com](mailto:b.vanderploeg@me.com)>; Billy Keene <[billykeene@gmail.com](mailto:billykeene@gmail.com)>; Irma Majer <[bohemiaom@yahoo.com](mailto:bohemiaom@yahoo.com)>; Stephanie Zaiantz <[stephzaiantz@gmail.com](mailto:stephzaiantz@gmail.com)>; Stani Bohac <[sbohac@umich.edu](mailto:sbohac@umich.edu)>; [catker@msn.com](mailto:catker@msn.com); Deborah J. Cooper (<[coop@bria2.com](mailto:coop@bria2.com)>) <[coop@bria2.com](mailto:coop@bria2.com)>; Gary Cooper <[gcooper@cooperdesigninc.com](mailto:gcooper@cooperdesigninc.com)>; Harriet Teller <[harrietteller76@gmail.com](mailto:harrietteller76@gmail.com)>; John Godfrey <[jgodfrey@umich.edu](mailto:jgodfrey@umich.edu)>; Jack Zaiantz <[jzaiantz@soartech.com](mailto:jzaiantz@soartech.com)>; john <[john@johncorey.com](mailto:john@johncorey.com)>; Jack Bernard <[bernard@umich.edu](mailto:bernard@umich.edu)>; Janine Huber <[janinehuber@gmail.com](mailto:janinehuber@gmail.com)>; Jodi Bullinger <[jodi.bullinger@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.bullinger@gmail.com)>; Merle Rosenzweig <[oriley@umich.edu](mailto:oriley@umich.edu)>; Ackerman, Zach <[ZAckerman@a2gov.org](mailto:ZAckerman@a2gov.org)>

**Subject:** Postponement of discussion on solar ordinance at Planning Commission Meeting

Members of the Commission:

We are writing to ask that the Commission postpone its consideration of the proposed revision to the city's zoning ordinances for solar energy systems at its meeting next Tuesday and instead delay consideration of the ordinance until the Commission's meeting in early September. This will allow a transparent examination of the issues associated with the disappointing language in draft ordinance, of which we have just now become aware. In particular, proposed changes include a provision (2. Ground-Mounted SES), which is in direct opposition to assurances to the Brockman Boulevard neighborhood received from the Commission and the Council last December and January. We were told that all were in agreement that these do not belong in front yards.

Our concern is that the proposed regulations have the potential for disfiguring neighborhoods, turning them into unattractive industrial facilities. At the same time we recognize the laudable goal of solar energy; however, the marginal generating capacity from front yards is hardly an argument for disfigurement. For the commission to take up this proposal with no notice in mid-summer, when so many residents are away, is not in the public interest. There are other issues for discussion in the draft ordinance, but our main point, again, is to take the time to have an open discussion with full citizen participation.

Many thanks for your consideration of this request. Please be sure to share this message with Planning Commission and add it to the public record of the meeting.

Sincerely,

Hank & Barbara Vanderploeg  
2808 Brockman Blvd.  
Henry A. Vanderploeg, Ph.D.  
Adjunct Professor  
School of Natural Resources & Environment  
University of Michigan