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**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2022 1:45 PM  
**To:** Planning <[Planning@a2gov.org](mailto:Planning@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** The George - elimination of retail space

I live in the Stone School and Eisenhower neighborhood. I would have contacted you and my council people after an earlier meeting discussing the proposed changes to the George, however this last Friday was the first I became aware of the plans to eliminate retail from the George on Packard Rd.

As you know, the site of the George used to be shopping center. In fact, it was more, a community center, where people from the surrounding neighborhood would run into neighbors running errands, and stop and interact. The George is within walking distance for all of the apartments and houses nearby, even for us older folk.

I thought, a coffee shop for sure would open. I'd hoped for a little market/sundries shop. And perhaps a small breakfast/lunch type restaurant, especially if a coffee shop didn't move in. I've planned on contacting my council people about the George renegeing on its promise of providing at least some retail space, which was a requirement of its original building bid. Too late now. Can anyone truly believe a coffee shop wouldn't do a booming business on that site, even just counting people living at the George and the apartments across Packard, let alone the other apartment complexes and houses adjacent to the George. I don't buy the George's assertion that there's no real interest in retail there. Perhaps they're out pricing their quoted retail rates, just so they can eliminate retail altogether, as they are doing now.

Covid if not over, is no longer keeping people indoors. And businesses are opening again, if the Ann Arbor Observer and M-Live are to be believed. The Stone School/Packard area is underserved in typical neighborhood retail and food businesses. Please make the George live up to its promises.

Thank you,  
Patrice Matujec  
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