

May 29, 2014

Ann Arbor Planning Commission

Ann Arbor City Hall

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

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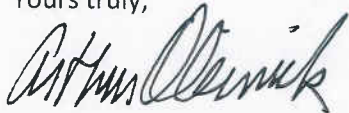
I object to the proposed Special Exception Use request for occupancy at 1919 Wayne St. The request, by the Society of Jesus (Ann Arbor Jesuit Community) to house up to six unrelated members in the Wayne house, on its face, clearly violates the city's zoning requirement that no more than four unrelated individuals may occupy the house. Nor does the letter from Magill and Rumsey offer any compelling argument for the variance for their proposed living arrangements, other than arguing that they are especially worthy individuals which I readily grant. A grant of the variance would eviscerate the current zoning requirement and rationale citywide. If the Society of Jesus can proceed, then how about a group of dedicated graduate students or perhaps even especially serious and mature senior students? How about mature unrelated individuals who must live together to afford the expenses, thus opening the door to rooming houses of large size with issues related to upkeep by landlords? The potential extensions to other fact situations, if the Special Use is granted, are endless.

The fact is that the zoning requirement is intended to foster a community of families where most of the family members are related so they are working together toward common goals, with the exception already noted.

Moreover, there are other options for the Society of Jesus. Close by, on Washtenaw Avenue, there are student residences and B&Bs. If the location is the reason for the purchase, then surely there are other properties that would satisfy that requirement and where zoning would allow the sale.

In my opinion, approval of the request would be highly arbitrary and is the wrong way to proceed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Oleinick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and "O".

Arthur Oleinick, MD, JD, MPH