

From: Mark Bohm [<mailto:mwbohm@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 4:02 PM

To: Planning

Cc: Ann

Subject: Possible rezoning of 1919 Wayne

Dear Planning Commission:

We are writing to express our opposition to the attached petition to allow a group-living situation in an Oxbridge home that has been zoned as single-family residential.

This is the home at 1919 Wayne, which has been up for sale, as its owners (the Mueller-Urbaniak family) are planning to move out of the country. We were alerted to this possibility because we live within 500 feet of the proposed property.

The petitioner (the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, Saint Ignatius Trust) hopes to remodel the home and house there "a group of Jesuits working at St. Mary's Student Parish and/or pursuing studies at the University of Michigan."

In order to convert the home from single-family to a group-living situation, the purchaser is requesting a zoning exemption from the planning commission. The exemption would define the inhabitants (Jesuit staff and students affiliated with St. Mary's parish at the UM) as a "functional family," thereby clearing the way for them to occupy the home.

The city code defines a functional family as ... "a group of people plus their offspring, having a relationship which is functionally equivalent to a family. The relationship must be of a permanent and distinct character with a demonstrable and recognizable bond characteristic of a cohesive unit. Functional family does not include any society, club, fraternity, sorority, association, lodge, organization or group of students or other individuals where the common living arrangement or basis for the establishment of the housekeeping unit is temporary."

We are concerned about this request for an exemption because it seems to defy the definition of 'functional family' for the following reasons: 1) This will be a group housing situation with inhabitants likely changing at least every academic year. 2) It is highly unlikely that offspring will be occupying the residence.

How this might be interpreted as a permanent relationship unit defies comprehension.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to consider this request on June 3. Please reject the petition.

Sincerely,

Mark Bohm

Ann Shields

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