



# AVALON HOUSING inc.

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Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to express our support for Zingerman's efforts to improve and expand their Deli operations at the Kerrytown location. They are requesting your approval for both a site plan and a brownfield plan, and I hope you will be supportive of these requests.

In particular I would like to speak to the public benefits of their proposals from the perspective of a local non-profit.

--The expansion will increase accessibility for both customers and employees. This can allow Zingerman's to be even more effective in their employment of persons with disabilities. Zingerman's already is a leader in working with local non-profits to provide supported employment opportunities and increased accessibility can only strengthen this aspect of their operations.

--I can think of few, if any, businesses which have given back more generously to our community than Zingerman's. They created and have been a mainstay for Food Gatherers, our community's dynamic food rescue organization and food bank. Zingerman's illustrates how a successful for-profit business can build community responsibility into its core operations and long-term commitments. Other non-profits have come to appreciate Zingerman's willingness to share their success with the community. An expanded Deli operation will no doubt increase their ability to support a great many causes in our community.

--Healthy near-downtown neighborhoods are enhanced by attractive, healthy downtown businesses. The public benefits of encouraging vibrant, attractive businesses to remain in the Kerrytown area are many—and are certainly integral to a vision of Ann Arbor that includes an active downtown, particularly one that has the kinds of businesses that support downtown residential units. I can think of no business better for this kind of effort than Zingerman's.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and, I hope, for your support of Zingerman's requests. As a non-profit that engages in housing development—and has recently been through the site plan and brownfield plan processes—we are particularly aware of the critical role that City Council plays in targeting these resources to projects that provide true benefit to our community. Zingerman's proposals fit the bill.

Sincerely,

Michael Appel  
Executive Director



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