

From: [Philip Christman](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Subject: Please keep the Residential category undivided--no unit limits
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025 10:34:09 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I know that you're under a lot of pressure to please the various NIMBYs in our community, as well as the many other well-intentioned voters who have been taken in by their propaganda. (They can't build a park, but when it comes to spreading misinformation, they're quite efficient.) But you shouldn't change your plan. It was a good plan, and it's what the solid majority of Ann Arbor voters voted for. Course-correcting when you're already doing the right thing merely adds to the impression that the plan is wrong, nefarious, or unpopular, when it's none of these things. Keep the Residential category undivided, without unit limits.

Every day I talk to people who work in Ann Arbor who can't afford to live here because there simply is no housing for them to move into! There's something fundamentally insulting about saying to people, "You're good enough to work here, but not good enough to live here."

I sometimes hear my more conservative neighbors muttering about how they'd feel if a high-rise were built next door to them. A high-rise built next door to me would ... look kinda weird, I guess, but it would also reassure me that my city isn't doomed to wither from its own snobbery. And it would reassure me that we're not offloading half our workers on Ypsilanti.

Phil
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[Author](#), [Why Christians Should Be Leftists](#) (Eerdmans, 2025), [Midwest Futures](#) (Belt, April 2020), and [How To Be Normal: Essays](#) (Belt, February 2022)
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