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LETTER TO THE ANN ARBOR CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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If the proposed Comprehensive Plan draft for the City of Ann Arbor is approved, it risks damage the quality of life for the taxpaying non-student residential population.

I'm picturing a couple in the year 2035 or beyond and they are moving to the Ann Arbor area for work. Friends have recommended Ann Arbor, Dexter and Saline for house hunting. How do they choose where to buy a residence? Here are some of the criteria they will factor into their decision matrix:

They seek:

- a neighborhood for their children to play and make friends. MUST be safe and without negative influences. It also must be quiet at night and peaceful in the neighborhood - reminiscent of the neighborhood where they themselves grew up in their own childhoods and teen years.
- nearby stores for groceries and other goods with easy access and parking by car for big loads
- neighbors who have similar families for enduring friendships
- good schools with minimal disruptive and negative forces
- good & well-maintained residential streets, greenery and garden space and minimal construction noise.
- easy parking on their residential street for their own cars, as well as for guests when they entertain.
- low property taxes

Under the proposed plan, the Ann Arbor area will be based on businesses and multi-family housing as well as student housing directly mixed into established near-campus neighborhoods. It will feel confusing and disordered; It will appear unplanned and unappealing.

Our couple will opt for either Dexter or Saline as both have good schools. There is better visual continuity. Both those and other nearby communities feature family-friendly quiet living and a continuity of architecture that will no longer exist in Ann Arbor. In addition they will save a great deal on property taxes.

I ask that you reconsider the density of living and negative impact on single family homes by not approving the current Plan proposal. That is, please retain the appealing Ann Arbor lifestyle for future families.

Sincerely,

Prudence F Heikkinen