

Subject: Mary Court- Public Hearing Commentary

From: Elodie Malherbe

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:25 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Barrett, Jon <JBarrett@a2gov.org>; Manor, Courtney <CManor@a2gov.org>; Alexander, Brittany <BAlexander@a2gov.org>

Subject: Mary Court- Public Hearing Commentary

To whom it may concern,

I am writing, as a resident of Mary Court, to oppose the proposal to demolish the homes on Mary Court.

I am opposing this demolition for a number of reasons—most importantly, housing affordability, the character of the neighborhood, and the residents' reliance on existing housing.

The proposed plan for the demolition of Mary Court would result in the construction of new houses and duplexes in the area. While, in theory, this may seem like a positive addition to the neighborhood, there is no doubt that newly built housing will be significantly more expensive than the current homes on Mary Court. Ann Arbor's housing market is already oversaturated with costly new developments, while the majority of students cannot afford this type of living. One of the main draws of the houses on Mary Court is their affordability, and this demolition would only worsen the affordable housing crisis in Ann Arbor.

Additionally, the character and community of this neighborhood are unlike anything else I have seen in Ann Arbor. The close-knit community of Mary Court residents is welcoming and supportive. The colorful houses, magnolia trees, and small gardens create a charming environment that often draws back former tenants and passersby who admire the uniquely quaint neighborhood we call home. Demolishing Mary Court would significantly diminish the spirit and identity of the area.

Finally, this demolition would cause all Mary Court residents a great deal of stress. Given the competition for housing near campus, my roommates and I would not have leased a house on Mary Court had we known there was a possibility we wouldn't be able to stay here until graduation. If the demolition goes through, we will already be far behind in finding affordable housing for next year. This would be an enormous and unexpected burden, especially since we had not anticipated having to move or pay significantly higher rent.

I hope you will take these comments into careful consideration during the hearing today.

Sincerely,
Elodie Malherbe