City of Ann Arbor Development Engagement Requirement

July 20, 2023, Renters Commission Meeting

Background: Residents of 721 S Forest Ave. emailed the Renters Commission informing that after renewing their leases in January, their apartment's management informed them that their units were no longer available to rent due to an approved redevelopment project at the site. This prompted staff discussion of the Citizen Participation Requirement. The Citizen Participation Requirement is a formalized procedure, required by Chapter 55 of City Code. It requires developers to communicate with residents early in the development review process and is intended to alleviate complications from receiving comments and concerns from residents for the first time at a public hearing. The ordinance does not explicitly state that residents of the project site are included in the required notification.

The Tenant Education Committee discussed the matter on Thursday, July 6, 2023, and determined that they would draft a resolution to bring to the Renters Commission that requests that the appropriate bodies work to amend that code language to include renters of the proposed project site in the required notification.