

Subject: Public Comment for February 18th Planning Commission Meeting

From: Lenny Lamping

Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:50 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

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Dear Planning Commission Members,

When I was an undergraduate student at U of M ten years ago, the student cooperatives were the only reasonable housing option for me as a broke college student working part-time to pay my rent. Ten years later, the cost of living has skyrocketed, and I can't imagine what it would be like to try to find an affordable apartment as a low-income student now...

Because of the council's many years' pause on investing in affordable housing in Ann Arbor, we are seeing "luxury student" high rises dominate the rental market, driving up prices. Although this may help lead to affordable housing in the future, we need affordable housing in the present. The council needs to recommit to and prioritize increasing affordable housing as soon as possible, especially keeping in mind the ever-increasing U of M student population. Especially for the low-income and/or financially independent students who struggle to find a place to live while attending school.

Committing to affordable housing requires more than publishing statements of intention. Community stakeholders need to be included in planning conversations at all levels. Subsidies to qualifying affordable housing need to be distributed. Group housing needs to be encouraged through zoning reform. I ask the council to meaningfully commit to the betterment of our community through increasing housing accessibility for our low-income neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration,



*"Freedom is a place'
means we combine
resources, ingenuity,
and commitment to
produce the conditions
in which life is precious
for all."*

Ruth Wilson Gilmore

Elena "Lenny" Lamping

Director of Member Resources

Inter-Cooperative Council

[They/them](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

[Schedule a Meeting](#)

With great reverence, I acknowledge that the Inter-Cooperative Council is located on and benefits from the unceded land of the Anishinaabe (the original peoples) and the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and Potawatomi - as well as the Wyandot. I honor and pay tribute to the Anishinaabe people who steward this land of the world's largest freshwater system located in the Huron River watershed. To learn more about the LAND BACK Movement for Indigenous peoples, visit the [NDN Collective](#).