

Subject: Mary Ct - Notice of Public Hearing Commentary

From: Arunima Paul

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 12:36 PM

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

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Mary court

To whom it may concern,

I hope you are doing well. My name is Arunima, and I am writing on behalf of myself, 604 Mary ct, as well as all the other residents of the court to express my strong opposition to the proposed demolition of the homes on Mary Court. As a current resident and out-of-state student who intends to live here at least until I graduate in two years (and possibly another year for masters), I am deeply concerned about the impact this proposal would have on both residents and the broader community.

Mary Court is more than just student housing. It's an iconic and close-knit community that has long served as a welcoming place for students. Our semesterly music festivals, tailgates, and other events, reflect the sense of connection and neighborhood spirit that makes this area so special, not just to residents but to students all over campus who come to Mary Court. I've attached photos of events over the years where I fell in love with the court before I even lived here, and where so many people made memories. Replacing these homes with new developments would erase the character and culture that makes Mary Court unique.

Beyond the loss of community identity, this demolition would cause significant hardship for current tenants. Finding affordable housing in Ann Arbor (especially August lease, 4 person, good location, and with parking) on short notice is already challenging, and being forced to move yet again would inflict academic, emotional, and financial strain. This is especially true now, as my roommates and I, as well as others on the court, and preparing for grad school applications, MCATs, LSATs. etc. This would be my third move in 3 years, as my apartment last year also collapsed and I had to move. My family lives ten hours away and cannot come to help me move or find new housing again, meaning I would have to manage the entire process alone (without a car), including finding and funding another storage space over the summer.

The sudden displacement of residents would not only disrupt our academic stability but also create unnecessary stress and logistical burdens. The City's housing and tenant protection principles exist to prevent exactly this kind of hardship and to promote equitable access to stable, affordable living spaces. Allowing this demolition to proceed would undermine those values.

Additionally, the ongoing construction on both sides of Mary Ct. is already a burden. Residents are constantly affected by noise, traffic delays, and reduced accessibility. Adding yet another major construction project here would further strain the neighborhood, worsen congestion, and degrade quality of life for both students and long-term residents. We do not need more large-scale development at the expense of the communities that already exist.

Rebuilding Mary Court is not about creating more student housing. It's about displacing the community that already lives here and loves the court. It would bring years of construction, overcrowd the area, and replace perfectly functional, charming, affordable homes with overpriced "newly built" residences that exploit, rather than serve, the student population. The minimal "benefit" proposed by the property owner is not genuine, nor is it worth all of the issues/distress that would arise with the demolition of the court.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the City Planning Commission to reject this demolition proposal and preserve the character, affordability, and livability of Mary Court, and in turn, Ann Arbor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_wrMH2P_Dfa1ywnQSHR9uOSirtZak-Tk

Sincerely,
Arunima Paul
604 Mary Court