

From: Angela B
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 1:31 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Comment for Planning Commission Meeting

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to express my support for Avalon Housing's Catherine St. development in downtown Ann Arbor. I am a social worker who has worked in this community for the past 13 years. Working with individuals with multiple needs, it is clear that more affordable housing is needed in this community. The usual options include applying for Section 8 and being on an indefinite waitlist, applying for various vouchers (some of which you need to be homeless for at least a year to qualify for) and then waiting to be picked (currently, I have someone who has been waiting 6 months on the list and still has about 10 people ahead of them), or calling the Housing Access line and waiting at least 3 months for an initial appointment, usually to be given a list of options that are supposed to be affordable, but usually not realistic for the population we work with.

I have also seen people really benefit from housing services, particularly from working with Avalon. This model has been proven to cut down on ER visits, incarcerations, and other negative situations, and allows people to stabilize and be able to work on their goals. I worked with two individuals who were frequently incarcerated or else in the emergency room, often due to homelessness, who have benefitted tremendously from Avalon's services. Another individual I'm thinking of has been on the waiting list for months, and housing this individual for a year would absolutely cost the community far less than a month's worth of this person's ER visits (again, which are often due in large part to their homelessness), and would also improve the quality of their life.

Please support this housing development, which would definitely improve the lives of anyone able to live there.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment,

A Helping Professional