

From: Gauthier, Kelly [mailto:kelly.gauthier@truvenhealth.com]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 2:19 PM
To: DiLeo, Alexis
Subject: Support for city expansion of affordable housing

Hello, I am an Ann Arbor resident who has lived in the City since 1997 (and in Ward 4 since 2001). I also work in Ann Arbor, at the 777 building on Eisenhower. ***I would like to express my strong support for adding affordable housing units in the city, and would ask that the City Council and Mayor allow the proposed projects on North Maple and Platt Road to move forward.***

Specifically,

- At the North Maple site, I very much like the addition of smaller units for those who have fewer children, or whose children have grown and moved out; I also think the addition of a community center and services for residents is a very positive addition. The “green” improvements will be helpful in lowering residents’ utility bills and will be less destructive to the environment. I hope the City Council will approve this development on 8/18.
- At the Platt Road site, I hope the Planning Commission will approve affordable housing as one use of this property. I have heard Councilman Kunselman express a desire for affordable housing to be built in other parts of the city. While I would support doing so, I am unaware of any other 13.5 acre properties that are currently available for such development. I sincerely hope that our elected officials do not waste this opportunity to provide affordable housing in a location that is near to transportation (a glaring deficiency of most of the local trailer parks), employment, shopping, and a beautiful park. My family often bikes over to County Farm Park, or visits it after attending mass at St. Francis. I think the area would only be enhanced by increasing the number of residents living nearby.

As a person who lived for years in a Section 8-funded apartment when I was younger, I do not perceive those who live in affordable housing to be any more dangerous or problematic to a neighborhood than a person who earns enough from his/her work to pay fair market rent. Allowing people to move into the area might help to dispel these sad misperceptions about the moral turpitude of those who simply earn less money than others.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important topic,

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