

**Subject:** Please do not limit resident comments at your public meetings

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**From:** Leslie Ford

**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2025 1:13 PM

**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>

**Cc:** City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>

**Subject:** Please do not limit resident comments at your public meetings

Dear Planning Commissioners and planning staff,

Please do not limit resident comment at your public meetings.

**1. The City's message to residents: "Shut up."**

The city's lack of transparency and failure to adequately inform residents about details of the Comp Plan early on has understandably caused many residents to lose trust in city leaders and the planning staff.

Yet the Planning Commission and staff continue to express resistance to resident feedback, pushing to complete the Plan without actively engaging in the slow but necessary process of meaningful back-and-forth discussions with all residents, and without undertaking data-driven analyses.

And now the Planning Commission seeks to reduce resident comment time at its public meetings, and/or to prevent many residents from speaking until *after* the Commission has already made up its mind regarding revisions to the Comp Plan. What better way to say to residents, "We do not intend to consider anything you say."

The message the Commission and staff are sending to residents is plain: "Shut up."

**2. Because the city failed to adequately inform residents early on, and because the city failed to diligently conduct essential analyses, the city cannot now complain that people are talking too much**

Residents are understandably upset and angered by the city's (1) failure to provide clear, jargon-free, and detailed notice of the Plan's provisions to all residents early on, (2) failure to do the hard work of meaningful neighborhood engagement early on, (3) failure to undertake data-based analyses to support its purported goals, (4) appointment of Wonwoo Lee to the Planning Commission despite his conflicts of interest and employment by large developers, and (5) failure to appoint planning commissioners who represent the diverse segments of Ann Arbor's population, as required by law.

By failing to disseminate easy-to-understand, detailed notice to residents early on and throughout, and by failing to rigorously grapple with complex land-planning issues, the Planning Commission has forfeited the right to complain that people are now talking too much.

The Planning Commission could have done the requisite, painstaking work up front, but it chose not to.

The city could have appointed a planning commission free of conflicts of interest and representative of all segments of the population, as required by law, but it chose not to.

So, Planning Commissioners and planning staff, if you're tired out by public comment, and if you're pressing to complete your Plan on a rushed timetable that is neither necessary nor feasible, that's on you.

Residents should not be penalized for the city's failure to allot sufficient time and attention to the planning process.

Please do not cut resident comment time, and please allow residents to speak before you've made your revisions to the Plan.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Leslie Ford  
Ann Arbor resident