

From: Cristina Ley
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 5:24 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Opposition to the Demolition of Property on East University and Church

To the Planning and Development Services of Ann Arbor,

I saw a notice for a public hearing this coming Tuesday at 7pm regarding a building proposal. The following text is what is written on the orange poster:

"A proposal to demolish the existing buildings at 611 + 615 E. University and 612 + 616 Church St., creating a 19,500 sq ft site, and construct a 134,000 sq ft, 13-story building with retail on the ground floor, 2 levels of parking for 56 cars, and 90 apartments."

I would like to express my distaste for this proposal. I have been around Ann Arbor since my sister had begun her education with UM in 2005. I myself became a student in 2010. From my time in the city through the past ten years, I have personally witnessed the decline of neighborhoods and the public health of students and citizens due to an increase of high-rise apartment complexes which offer no benefit to anyone other than facility owners and out-of-state students whom are supported by wealthy parents.

The area of town of which the proposed building would be placed is specifically the area affected most dramatically by the implementation of corporate apartments. Zones 0928SW and 0928SE have seen an increase in crime and drug related activity due to closures of independent and local businesses. By allowing affluent enterprises to infiltrate this zone, nearly the entire stretch of South University is barren and vacant because the cost of rent for these businesses was raised too high to manage.

I strongly oppose this proposal due the amount of crime being reported by the UM Department of Public Safety and Ann Arbor Police. I have personally witnessed friends become addicted to drugs sold in this area of town. Michigan's reputation stands on being a college town supported by locally owned businesses. In permitting these apartment complexes to be built, you are personally contributing to the decline of the economy of the state of Michigan by prohibiting in-state students from affordable housing and thus the health of their education and jobs within. Out-of-state students do not stay in-state, instead taking their education to support communities back home. I see no benefit to the city in perpetuating the construction of costly and unsustainable corporate entities.

I sincerely urge the Ann Arbor Planning Commission to **REJECT** this proposal and to institute a program which would give advantages to local business owners and their employees.

I will be attending the hearing this coming Tuesday, June 7th at 7PM to publicly express my displeasure in this proposition.

Please feel free to contact me if you have anything to counter regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Cristina Ley