

**Subject:** Support for New Housing and an Inclusive Ann Arbor!

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**From:** Katie Pascoe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:42 PM  
**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>  
**Cc:** City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** Support for New Housing and an Inclusive Ann Arbor!

Greetings,

I want to start by thanking you for your dedication to addressing Ann Arbor's housing shortage and for taking seriously the work of undoing the harms of exclusionary zoning. I know this is a difficult and often thankless process, and I deeply appreciate your commitment to making Ann Arbor a place where people who want to live here can actually afford to do so.

I am 24 years old and was born and raised in Ann Arbor. I have spent the majority of my life living in Ann Arbor and I have become increasingly aware of the housing crisis in Ann Arbor (and in many parts of the country) over the years. Many of the people I grew up going to school with at Ann Arbor Public Schools are unable to afford safe, quality housing in Ann Arbor even though they want to live and work here. Instead, many are forced to live in more affordable surrounding areas or leave the Ann Arbor area entirely. Peers who choose to live in Ann Arbor often must live with multiple roommates in poor quality housing and spend unreasonably large portions of their monthly pay on rent. I currently do not live in Ann Arbor city limits, but I want to move back to be closer to family and friends and continue to build community in the place I have spent so much of my life in. Current housing prices make this decision very challenging as cost of living would increase significantly if I were to do so, and the quality of the housing that I would be able to afford would likely be much worse than my current housing.

I am aware that there has been a surge in misleading narratives claiming that building more housing won't make Ann Arbor more affordable. However, decades of research—and basic economics—show that increasing housing supply helps stabilize and reduce rents. When market-rate housing is built, it absorbs demand from higher-income renters who would otherwise outbid lower-income residents for existing housing. Over time, these new buildings age and become more affordable themselves. Additionally, in Ann Arbor, every new development contributes to the Affordable Housing Fund through property taxes, directly funding subsidized units. Ann Arbor's housing crisis affects real people every day, and it is disheartening to see misinformation and fearmongering derail the solutions we so desperately need.

I also find it deeply ironic that many of those opposing new housing live in older single-family homes now valued at \$600K or more and seem to have little compassion for those who are not already home owners. While they argue against allowing smaller, denser, and more walkable housing options, they benefit from past development that made their own housing possible. Blocking new housing today only ensures that future generations won't have the same opportunities they did. Ann Arbor should be a place for all—not just those who were fortunate enough to buy in at the right time.

I also want to recognize that there are many voices who likely will not make it to important comprehensive plan meetings. For many, this is not for lack of concern, but because of the very housing challenges we are trying to solve. I trust that you will weigh the voices of those impacted by housing insecurity just as seriously as those who have the time and resources to be consistently present at meetings.

I urge you to continue following the unanimously agreed upon City Council directives for the Comprehensive Plan. **Your leadership in this moment is critical, and I hope you will push forward with policies that create a more inclusive, affordable, and vibrant Ann Arbor.**

Thank you again for your work.

Katie Pascoe