Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: June 21, 2025 Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386

Sent Time	<u>10</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>cc</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	Reason for Redaction
8:29 PM	City Council	Jeff Gaynor		Personal Information	Privacy
7:10 PM	City Council	Claire Mellott		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Mary Jane Worden		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Heidi Burkhardt		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Donal Couch		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Suzanne Camino		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Alex Klopp		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Jay Wren		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Jack Pottow		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Isaac Scobey-Thal		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Lindsay Hansmann		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Kim Mayes		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Valerie Kivelson		Personal Information	Privacy
7:09 PM	City Council	Jeremy Hendzel		Personal Information	Privacy
7:08 PM	City Council	Carla Bayha		Personal Information	Privacy
7:08 PM	City Council	Eric Cuffney		Personal Information	Privacy

From: Jeff Gaynor
To: City Council
Subject: Zoning Resolution

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 8:29:33 PM

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This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I was hoping to make it in person tonight, but I find I'm having touches of PTSD after too many too long school board meetings.

Since 1968 I have lived in 10 different residences in Ann Arbor. The first 9 were within a mile or so of what the DDA considers downtown. For the first 25 of those years I did not own a car; I did not need a car as I could get where I needed by walking, biking or riding the bus. After work I would bike to Community day Care and take my daughter, secure in her bike seat, to our Burns Park home. This was one of three homes in Burns Park I lived in. In the first one, I was one of 7 unrelated people, all of us in our 20's and 30's. Two of us owned cars. The last Burns Park house was just large enough that we hosted exchange students for a dozen years. Other times I lived with 3 and with 12 unrelated people, and once with hundreds! Ok, that was South Quad, so it doesn't count. I've lived in apartments, in a duplex, and in houses, small, medium and what I'd consider relatively large, almost 1,400 sq ft. For the last dozen years I've lived closer to the edge of town, in a large condo complex, as the rent was manageable – at least it was when I moved in. I rent out the 2nd bedroom to ease the cost. I will usually take the bus downtown now, or, when I feel up to it I'll bike, but I find I'm driving downtown much more than I'd like to, something I never did before.

My point here is that increased density is a good thing – especially in the neighborhoods close to downtown and campus. More people living close in improves sustainability much more than sprawl and commuting. And besides, I like having neighbors, especially people who want to live in Ann Arbor. And if we want any chance at having housing affordable to more people, increased density has to be part of the equation, in all parts of the city and especially at the core.

-Jeff Gaynor

From: Claire Mellott
To: City Council

Subject: Reject Resolution on Draft Comprehensive Plan

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:10:01 PM

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This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

My name is Claire Mellott and I am writing in opposition to the resolution regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

As a newer resident and renter in Ann Arbor, I have seen first hand the impact of housing scarcity. When moving to Ann Arbor, I had a lot of trouble finding affordable housing that met my needs of parking, the ability to have pets, and walking distance to the city center. I currently spend more than 30% of my income on housing in Ann Arbor, which makes it impossible for me to put money into my retirement savings or save money in general. I have had to make sacrifices to enjoy this beautiful city, and I shouldn't have to.

In order to help ease this housing scarcity, I believe that neighborhoods closer to campus should be allowed to have more neighbors and higher density. The community of Ann Arbor is driven by the downtown area. If we continue to make it harder to live near there, more individuals will take their business elsewhere, such as to strip malls and other city centers.

For these reasons, please reject this resolution and support more housing abundance in Ann Arbor

Thank you, Claire Mellott Ward 3 From: Mary Jane Worden
To: City Council
Subject: Pausing the Plan

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:58 PM

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Hello I live at Ann Arbor. I truly believe Ann Arbor offers "cool neighborhoods for everyone." It allowed me to rent, own a cool condo on the Old West Side, and move over to the quieter family neighborhood of Burns Park.

I truly worry about the plan. I do not understand how this is bringing affordable housing to A2. By reducing set backs, increasing building heights, etc., how many trees are you eliminating from Tree Town? What is the environmental impact? With all these taller buildings how much sunlight will reach the ground?

A multi unit dwelling without parking "dropped" in a single family neighborhood would signicantly change the neighborhood - in appearance and in safety (additional traffic) - and with future infrastructure (roads and sewers) issues. Please do not be short sighted on these issues. It seems like more tax revenue but it maybe changing the long term landscape. My mom always told me not to be penny wise, pound foolish!

Please be thoughtful and thorough. Please think about your constituents that live in Ann Arbor and pay taxes. Please do not be swayed by developers and landlords. They are not your long term residents that make Ann Arbor the beautiful city that it is. Please pause the plan and include us.

Thank you,

Mary Jane Worden

Sent from my iPhone

From: <u>Heidi Burkhardt</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: Opposition to CLUP Resolution
Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:54 PM

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Ann Arbor City Council members:

My name is Heidi Burkhardt and I am writing in opposition to the resolution regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Seeing "Pause the Plan" signs sprout up across our city this summer, and especially in the wealthiest neighborhoods, has made me so incredibly sad. I was even more disappointed to learn about the resolution sponsored by Mayor Taylor and council members Disch, Watson, Eyer, and Radina that encumbers the Comprehensive Plan with further housing restrictions and inequities. We proclaim ourselves to be a progressive city, and I feel so privileged to live here, but this council was elected to be pro-housing and this resolution is the opposite.

I've lived in Ann Arbor for almost 10 years and originally rented an apartment in Kerrytown. Walking everywhere was my favorite thing. I would fantasize about being able to buy a cozy old house and pick up groceries on my walk home, but I knew that would never be possible for us. My husband and I were fortunate that we found a house in the Abbot neighborhood in 2017, but if we had waited one more year to buy we would've been priced out of the city. We have an amazing community, walk our 7 year old daughter to school, and can easily bike or bus to work in town. So many young families and professionals cannot afford our sweet little neighborhood now.

Our residential neighborhoods, especially those closest to campus and the downtown core, should allow for more neighbors and more density. Making the Residential District increasingly granular, complicated, and limited as this resolution requests will hamstring future development. You can make room for more people without damaging the "neighborhood context." Draft 2 of the plan already has illustrative examples of how small, low rise apartment buildings can blend in wonderfully. The resolution also asking for an expedited review for duplexes and triplexes is practically a direct acknowledgement that this will make things harder.

For these reasons, please reject this resolution and support more housing abundance in Ann Arbor.

Thank you. Heidi Burkhardt Ward 5 resident

she/her

From: Donal Couch
To: City Council

Subject: [Public Comment] Reject the resolution regarding the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:52 PM

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This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Council members,

My name is Donal Couch, a Ward 3 resident, and I am writing in opposition on the 7/21/25 Resolution Regarding the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (agenda item DC-3).

I moved to Ann Arbor in July 2023 to pursue a PhD in Chemical Engineering. Since that time, I have moved 4 separate times in barely 2 years, in large part due to the high cost of housing and yearly rent increases. As a student who primarily works on research on U-M's North Campus, it has been exceedingly challenging to find locations within Ann Arbor to live nearby that are affordable on my stipend. As someone who primarily commutes by bike due to the high cost of cars, it is also very challenging to find a location where there is a safe route for me to get to and from work. Many of my friends and colleagues are unable to live in Ann Arbor due to these high costs.

I lived in Minneapolis for undergrad, and despite it being a much larger city with more amenities, rent was significantly less expensive and there were many more options that allowed me to safely get around to school, home, work, and other locations. This was in large part due to Minneapolis policies that made it easier for more and larger apartment buildings to be built (duplex through quadplexes, small ~10 unit apartments, and high rises). In addition, policies that allowed for small scale commercial in residential neighborhoods and more styles of housing greatly improved options. Within a 5 minute walk of the house I lived in (leased to multiple tenants by bedroom), there were > 5 restaurants, a convenience store, a park, a gas station/auto-body shop, many single family homes, many duplex/triplexes, and several smaller apartment buildings (and this was not atypical of neighborhoods across the city). **This neighborhood has a vibrant local community, but outside of grandfathered in areas in Ann Arbor, would be impossible to replicate.**

We are currently in a housing crisis, and capitulating to the loudest voices in the room who are often not acting in good faith will not solve it. We need to build more housing of all types; the capacity of development of affordable projects like Dunbar Tower or subsidized units in larger market-rate projects will simply never be sufficient to meet the need. Affordable housing alone is not the solution, we also need dramatically more market rate housing. Ann Arbor is fundamentally constrained geographically, and with the amount of land set aside for park, recreation, and nature space (along with the amount of land owned by the University), there is simply not capacity if we only develop incrementally with lower density forms of housing. Even if every single family house in the entire city were instantaneously replaced with a duplex or triplex immediately, this still would not meet the extant demand, let alone future growth from expanding economic sectors, spin-offs from the university, or increasing enrollment numbers. Building up in "hub" and "transition" districts alone is not feasible, and even if it were, would perpetuate historic inequalities.

For these reasons, this draft resolution is exceedingly disappointing. Needlessly restricting the typology of buildings in residential areas to triplexes at most (outside of "fitting existing contexts" that would be easy for those opposed to push back on) is frustrating to see. Limiting the number of units per building and/or the number of bedrooms per unit feels particularly targeted towards restricting where students can easily live, and seems directly counter to the understanding that addressing housing shortages in the city will need to be collaborative with the University of Michigan. We need as much new housing as we can get, and if people from more affluent backgrounds are willing to pay more for newer, nicer places opening up older, cheaper options for others that is a good thing. As such, introducing further restrictions on what is possible to build (floor/area ratio, maximum lot coverage, building height, etc.) is particularly frustrating.

In being elected to the council, you all primarily campaigned on addressing housing/land use related issues to work towards improving the material conditions of the city. It is frustrating to see you backslide on essential parts of this, creating a "too many cooks" situation on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan through resolutions like this and the one a few months ago on building heights. I ask that you reject the 7/21/25 Resolution Regarding the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (agenda item DC-3). The planning commission has been working very hard looking at what has and has not worked for other communities around the US and policies in peer countries. We should trust their expertise and not water down the comprehensive plan. If you must pass a resolution, please remove items regarding limitations on units per building, bedrooms per unit, building height, floor/area ratio, and lot coverage. If you cannot, please at least reduce the restrictions put in place. You were elected to represent all constituents, not just those with the money and time available to be regularly present at council and planning commission meetings. Please be visionary for the future of Ann Arbor as a city and its current and future residents, not just the nostalgic past version that is impossible to return to. The status quo simply isn't good enough, we need bold and dramatic changes.

Thank you for your time, Donal Couch Ward 3 From: Suzanne Camino
To: City Council
Subject: New City Plan

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:46 PM

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Dear Council Members,

I am very concerned that my street and neighborhood is being recommended for rezoning in the new city plan, without sufficient input from the people it will affect the most. We live on Kellogg St., which is a dead end street off of Pontiac Trail. We were very happy to purchase a home in a neighborhood that included economically diverse residences, including apartments, townhouses, section 8 housing and detached single family residences. It is a pleasant neighborhood near the river. We have mostly lost the use of the riverside park, Argo, on the weekends since the city decided to advertise the Cascades to a multi-state area, but we still appreciate the relative peace we have found living here and the many friends we have made. Now we seem to be in a position of having to fight the inappropriate zoning that the planning commission is insisting on putting through, but we are begging for a less adversarial process where the planning commission would slow down and take the time to gather input and achieve something more like consensus for what is supposed to be a shared vision of our city, and not a top down insistence on enormous changes that make people afraid and upset and threatened. This is how our federal government is currently working. I hope that we can do better at the local level.

In short- our neighborhood of low rise apartments, townhomes and modest single family homes should be not be zoned to more than 3 stories. Do not ruin our neighborhood, and do not turn it over to developers to reshape as they wish. Listen to the people most affected. This is our home. Please slow down this process and let's have a real, city-wide consensus, even if it doesn't align with council's own preferences. Many of us care deeply about affordable and low- income housing- we would like to find solutions to the housing problems as citizens working together and not as adversaries whose homes and neighborhoods are under threat from developers who care nothing about us. Sincerely,

Suzanne Camino

From: Alex Klopp

To: <u>City Council; Eyer, Jen; Akmon, Dharma</u>

Subject: Oppose today"s resolution delaying the Comprehensive Plan

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:44 PM

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Alex Klopp and I am writing in opposition to the resolution regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

I am a renter in the Lower Burns Park neighborhood and love my area. However, I will never be able to afford to buy a house in this neighborhood despite a salary that puts me in the top quartile income for my age. This speaks to the desperate need for the Comprehensive plan as it's currently drafted.

I urge you to reject this resolution and support more housing abundance in Ann Arbor.

Thank you, Alex Klopp Ward 4

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From: <u>Jay Wren</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: kindly asking vote no on DC-3 tonight **Date:** Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:37 PM

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Greetings City Council,

This is the opposite direction we need. Please vote No on DC-3.

Thank You,

--

Jay Wren

Ward 1

From: **FoodGatheringPioneers**

Ghazi Edwin, Ayesha; Harrison, Cynthia; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor); Watson, Chris; Akmon, Dharma; Briggs, Erica; Cornell, Jenn; Eyer, Jen; Mallek, Jon; Disch, Lisa; Radina, Travis To:

Cc: info@foodgatherers.org

Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:31 PM Date:

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Dear esteemed city council members,

In the midst of these tumultuous times, with programs like SNAP (food stamps) being cut by the "Big Beautiful Bill" or the "federal cuts for hunger relief efforts handed down by the Trump administration," helping our social safety nets like food banks is more important than ever. To address these issues, we would like the Ann Arbor City Council to help foster University of Michigan and Ann Arbor Public School into a kind of partnership with Food Gatherers (the food bank I am specifically advocating on behalf of). Being an Ann Arbor Public School student who lives a minute away from campus, I know how leveraging the immense institutional capacity of the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) could not only strengthen the existing food ecosystem, but also embed food access into the city's educational and civic infrastructure. This would not only help address the most current and pressing issues, but it's a long-term investment in systemic collaboration, equity, and resilience.

First, the University of Michigan is a globally recognized institution with vast financial, logistical, and human resources. Coordinating with the university ensures access to large-scale food procurement channels, student volunteers, research capabilities, and a campus-wide appetite for civic engagement. Similarly, Ann Arbor Public Schools touch thousands of families daily. Integrating food insecurity solutions into school systems ensures that vulnerable children and their households have consistent, trusted access to meals and food resources.

Some examples we came up with include: Community Gardens and Farms, which could be jointly run by the university and schools.

The gardens and farms could provide fresh produce for school meals and community food banks. Educational Workshops in which the university could offer nutrition and cooking classes for students and families. Numerous studies have shown that food insecurity often stems from a lack of knowledge in how to use nutritious foods and that cooking education classes do help reduce this. (I believe U of M has one of these programs but I'm not sure). Food Drives and Donation Programs. We have already seen this to be wildly effective (raising something around 2000 dollars in 6 fundraisers). Research and Data Collection where university researchers could study local food insecurity to inform better strategies and mastery volunteer Programs where students could volunteer at food gatherers pantries and meal programs.

City Council is uniquely positioned to catalyze this partnership through policy leadership. A formal resolution calling for collaboration between Food Gatherers, the university, and AAPS would create a clear directive for shared responsibility and joint action. Furthermore, Councilmembers and the Mayor can utilize existing task forces, such as the Human Services

Advisory Board, to facilitate intergovernmental coordination and resource-sharing.

Crucially, there is a precedent: Resolution DC-7, which saw the Council act swiftly in support of Food Gatherers. Building on this momentum, the city can now pursue deeper structural collaboration instead of just more funding. This model scales well, requires no new physical infrastructure, and invites cross-sector innovation. It could also unlock matching philanthropic dollars, research partnerships, and new grant opportunities.

In short, we want a strategic alliance that redefines how Ann Arbor approaches hunger. By bringing together the intellectual, educational, and logistical strengths of its leading institutions, the city can create a more just, effective, and sustainable food system for all.

Thank you for your time,

Jack Pottow

Zoren Bhabhrawala (president and founder) Jordan Reingold, Beckett Crooks (board members) and the rest of the food gathering pioneers team at pioneer high school.

From: <u>Isaac Scobey-Thal</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: Encouraging to vote no on resolution 25-1371

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:27 PM

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Dear City Council,

As always, appreciate your work & openness to feedback from constituents! I'm stretching the limit there a little bit, but I was born & raised in Ann Arbor & my family still lives near campus. I hope that my hometown becomes a model for abundant, affordable housing in the neighborhoods folks want to live most. Friends of mine have encouraged me to write because resolution 25-1371 would make that housing harder to build.

So, I'm hoping you'll vote no! And if you are considering amendments, please delete the references to duplexes and triplexes and delete the section on "near campus neighborhoods."

Thank you for reading and considering!

From: <u>Lindsay Hansmann</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: 7/21/25 Resolution Regarding the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:22 PM

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Lindsay Hansmann and I am writing in opposition to the 7/21/25 Resolution Regarding the Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

My family moved to Ann Arbor two years ago when my daughter was one-year-old in order to raise her in a city that stands for inclusivity. We found a home we could *just* afford in Lower Burns Park, on a residential street that we share with many renters in apartments. Many of these renters pay the same amount each month as we do for our mortgage. As a family, we stand against the barriers of entry for low-income housing in Ann Arbor. In order to accomplish this, we must prioritize higher density housing in neighborhoods like our own. We welcome more neighbors and hope you will vote your conscience.

For these reasons, please reject this resolution and support more housing abundance in Ann Arbor

Thank you, Lindsay Hansmann Ward 4 From: kim mayes
To: City Council

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:18 PM

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Dear Council.

As a native resident, homeowner, and business owner, I have experienced all the changes in the city over the past 50+ years. I've lived in several A2 neighborhoods in my life. I think I know "us." We have a problem with hypocrisy and we love our city so much that we worry about every little change. We also tend to feel like we own the place, and should not only be kept informed, but consulted about every detail. Please don't let our privileged verbosity (we are very slick talkers) convince you to change your mind about what's best for our city's future residents or how quickly we need to change what's not working towards that future.

I want my grandchildren to take pride in our (future) Ann Arbor's diversity of humans and of our leadership as a city that is resilient in the face of a climate crisis. Please remember that leaders are chosen to lead, and that even when we constituents whine, when you're making the best choices with the information that you have, we are all better off in the end.

Kim Mayes

Kim Mayes

From: <u>Valerie Kivelson</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: Comprehensive Land Use Plan
Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:15 PM

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Valerie Kivelson, and I am writing in opposition to the resolution regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

A number of years ago, Ann Arbor voters voted to support the idea of dense housing in order to protect a green belt around the city. That was a forward looking plan, and it continues to make sense.

Now, with the crisis of housing that is making Ann Arbor unaffordable for many people, the idea of dense housing makes even more sense. More housing relieves pressure on housing availability. The city should require serious efforts toward including affordable housing in any future plan.

Rather than shut down access to housing, we need to make our city welcoming, and to do that, we need to consider all imaginable tools to bring down housing costs. Developing the area around campus of course has its downside. The small-town feel is giving way to towering buildings and shadowed streets. But the imperative to make housing available remains pressing.

For these reasons, please reject this resolution and support more housing abundance in Ann Arbor

Thank you, Valerie Kivelson Ward 3 From: <u>Jeremy Hendzel</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: vote no: DC-3 resolution

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:09:06 PM

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Dear City Council,

I am writing to encourage you to **vote no** on Resolution DC 3.

I am a Ward 5 resident and renter. I moved to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan and stayed after graduation, because I loved the walkability and quality of life I found after moving here from rural Michigan. However, much of the city is not truly walkable and housing prices keep on going up.

As Ann Arbor grows, so should opportunities to live in dense, walkable neighborhoods. The comprehensive plan sets out a vision for this more equitable, vibrant community (not to mention more sustainable).

The city council is under immense pressure from residents who misunderstand the comprehensive plan and, worse, are actively spreading misinformation. I know you are not in an easy position, but Ann Arbor desperately needs more housing. There will always be anti-development sentiment, but there will not always be opportunities to build a city that we need, and that I believe most people want. The comprehensive plan has come so far, and resolution DC-3 sets us back in a moment where we need your courage.

Please, vote no on Resolution DC 3.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hendzel

From: <u>Carla Bayha</u>
To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: New resolution tonight on limiting housing in campus adjacent neighborhoods

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:08:57 PM

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Hi, I am a resident of almost 40 years in the SoPac area of Ann Arbor, and I support more density in my neighborhood. I understand that there is yet another anti density resolution before the council tonight. Although it may seem like a compromise to some people, to me it is just compromised with phrases that harken back to other mostly successful attempts to limit the number of people and apartment units in these neighborhoods.

These campus adjacent neighborhoods are the perfect neighborhoods in which to add more density. Please do not cave with this resolution to the same old same old.

Thank you,

Carla Bayha

From: Eric Cuffney
To: City Council

Subject: WE SUPPORT THE PLAN!

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:08:54 PM

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This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the resolution that would delay our comprehensive plan and impose new restrictions on housing development, particularly in walkable neighborhoods near campus and downtown.

This resolution would be a significant step backward for our community's housing needs. At a time when Ann Arbor faces a serious housing shortage and affordability crisis, we should be making it easier—not harder—to build homes where people want to live.

The opposition to this plan reeks of the type of NIMByism that is hindering progress and equity in the town we love.

I urge you to reject this resolution and retain the comprehensive plan's vision for abundant, diverse housing options throughout our community.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Ann Arbor.

Eric Cuffney