

Subject:

Planning Commission - May 13th

From: Staci H**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:46 PM**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Radina, Travis <TRadina@a2gov.org>; Ghazi Edwin, Ayesha <AGhaziEdwin@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>**Subject:** Planning Commission - May 13th

Hello, this is Staci Haarer of 2004 Crestland St. in Ward 3. I have the experience of being both a renter and a homeowner in Ann Arbor. I want to thank you for all your efforts on the city plan, even if we do come from different perspectives.

I spoke on May 4th at the end of the planning session, and try I as I might, I could not find better words to say. Though I have added a bit.

Bases on all the speeches, attendees and emails, it is clear there is a great deal of concern regarding the comprehensive landing plan, an understatement, I know.

I am supportive of the concept of more affordable housing and increasing density as are most of the folks I have heard speak - it's the method that is the problem.

We want a *variety* of housing options for individuals, couples and families to rent and *own*. And we want it done with respect to Ann Arbor. It's a great city and we need to promote the things that make people want to be here. Unfortunately, it is not at all clear that the Plan (as currently drafted) will support that and there is a great deal of data suggesting that it will not even come close.

There is a great deal of conflict and disagreement about the data which promotes a reasonable doubt that this plan as drafted will actually do what you think and want it to do. Let me say that again - there's reasonable doubt that this plan will work.

For example, I have heard you say more than once that the best that you can hope for is to *slow* the increasing housing cost. That does not mean that the nurse, the firefighter or the teacher will suddenly be able to afford a house as you've only slowed the high prices, not actually reduced them. It would be horrific to make years of irrevocable changes to Ann Arbor's neighborhoods for these goals to not be met. Our city, neighborhoods, livelihoods and lifestyles are too important to not have the utmost confidence going forward. At this time, there is too much left up to the developers to guarantee a variety of housing at rentable or purchasable costs to meet the needs of our future residents.

I suggest you honestly and thoroughly review the data including the research from the 15 page memo you receive from the Ann Arbor Neighborhood Network. To ignore this is to be doing exactly what you were fearful of which would be picking and choosing data to look at to support your claims (a concern expressed by commissioner Hammerschmidt last week).

Hundreds have urged you to Pause the Plan (we may be approaching or passing the same levels you reached last fall) - again this does not mean to cancel the plan. It DOES mean we want a plan with more assurance that common objectives will be met — please pause the plan.

Thank-you.