

Subject: Comprehensive Land Use plan

From: James Svensson

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To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

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The number of apartment high rises that are being built in Ann Arbor today and over the last decade is leading to an incredible change in the feel of Ann Arbor as a city. I've lived in Ann Arbor since about 1965, so it is a big change for me. I have kept an open mind about it and have come to feel the city needs to increase density in the city center and along the major transport lanes in order to increase housing availability and lower environmental impact.

But expanding high rise buildings to every neighborhood except the "Old West Side" is going too far. You have to actually talk to the voters and not force this on people without even discussing it. And I heard one of the "reasons" for this policy is that the current neighborhoods are considered "exclusionary". That only makes sense if the new fancy apartments are affordable. The prices we have seen on apartments and apartment condos are outrageous! They cost as much or more than our house. And what about the cost ongoing taxes on housing? Taxes are outrageous in Ann Arbor.

Jim Svensson