

From: [Craig Williamson](#)
To: [Planning](#)
Cc: [Renuka Tipirneni](#)
Subject: Maintain Housing Flexibility in Residential neighborhoods
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025 12:53:11 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not create a new Residential subcategory with a 3-unit maximum. Instead, keep the Residential category undivided without unit limits. We are in a housing crisis, and we need to maintain flexibility in the future if we hope to make this an Ann Arbor for All.

As an individual who has owned a home in the Water Hill neighborhood for a decade, I am one of the fortunate ones with a nice home in a great area. However, overly restrictive zoning excludes too many from our neighborhoods. I ended up in Ann Arbor partly because it was necessary to flee San Francisco, where I lived for the majority of my 20s. Even as a physician married to another physician, it was clear that my ultimate goal of owning a home and sending kids to quality schools was going to be difficult, if not outright impossible, in the Bay Area. Already in Ann Arbor, this dream isn't possible for most hard-working families that work and contribute to our city. Without a concerted, flexible effort to increase housing supply, the problem is only going to get worse.

If small apartment buildings were allowed in my residential neighborhood, I would welcome the new neighbors and the socioeconomic diversity that they could bring. I would welcome knowing that there are attainable housing options for my son, would he choose to work and start a family in Ann Arbor. I've seen what happens when cities restrict housing construction and become little more than playgrounds for the wealthy rather than vibrant, truly diverse cities. I understand the conservative impulse to avoid change and try to close off our neighborhoods, but doing so comes at tremendous social cost.

Allowing more types of housing throughout Ann Arbor is crucially important and every delay has real impacts. Please don't add further limits on what housing we allow.

Thank you,

Craig Williamson

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