

**Subject:** Request from a lifelong Ann Arborite

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**From:** Theodore Poling  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 12:33 PM  
**To:** Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>  
**Cc:** Sarah Lorenz <slorenz@a2clt.org>  
**Subject:** Request from a lifelong Ann Arborite

Dear Wonwoo Lee, Donnell Wyche, Sara Hammerschmidt, Lisa Disch, Ellie Abrons, Daniel Adams, Sarah Mills, Richard Norton, and Julie Weatherbee,

I hope you're all doing well. My name is Theo Poling (they/he). I have grown up in Ann Arbor all my life--my parents met as students at the University of Michigan, and loved the city so much, that they stayed to raise their children here.

Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of the same opportunities as my parents did when they were my age. At 27, my mom was married to an attorney, had paid off her mortgage, earned an MBA, had one child and another on the way, and worked a job that made \$85,000 in today's dollars.

At 27, I have never owned a home, am newly single, have a Master's of Education and student loan debt, and I work a job that makes \$49,000. After taxes, health insurance, and transportation (I can't afford to live within the city, but I work at the University), it's not a lot to live on.

I found out about the Ann Arbor Community Land Trust and dared to imagine for the first time that I might own my own home and walk to work. I was chosen from their inaugural lottery and I have a reservation for an A2CLT home to be built at 1535 Maple Rd, in your ward, for \$225,000.

I have been harassed by neighbors for my gender identity, dealt with unsafe conditions because of apathetic landlords, and currently struggle to live at home, where emotional abuse is the norm, and my parents' cognitive abilities are in decline, making their fear and anger even worse. I am not using any kind of hyperbole when I say that living in this home would save my life, and that I have an urgent need to move as soon as I'm able to for my safety and health.

I would like to ask if you have any power to help the city council and the planning commission to expedite the necessary approvals to have our homes built. They need approval to put 2 homes on each site and get Housing TIF to facilitate the affordability of the program. Can you help get these approvals in place and help me live in a safe home?

I am happy to assist however I can. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there's anything else I can do to help.

Thank you so much, and I hope you are enjoying the end to your weekend!

Best,

Theo

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**Theo Poling**

**Student Engagement Coordinator, LSA Opportunity Hub**

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Pronouns: [he/they](#)

