

Subject:

No Flex District and No Height Limits Please

From: Ina Gjoka

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To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: No Flex District and No Height Limits Please

Hi,

I'm a renter who works at UM and has lived in Ann Arbor for the last 8 years. I am writing to advocate for **no restrictions on housing or building heights** because the housing crisis is out of control and getting *noticeably* worse every year. I think removing as many barriers to housing construction as possible is crucial for helping our residents. To reiterate, please:

- **allow high-rises everywhere, particularly downtown / in the transition district**. We cannot afford to be conservative with heights when the housing problem is as bad as it is.

- **remove the flex district**, since it will discourage housing construction. *Areas like South Industrial are ideal for housing*, as they are near campus and near stores and on major bus routes that residents like me frequent.

During the January meeting, the committee decided to remove the employment district, and I supported that thoughtful decision. However, I am concerned that the flex district is contradicting the planning commission's initial decision -- the more I learn about it, the more it seems quite similar to the former employment district, just with more ambiguous wording regarding housing limits. With this in mind, I respectfully ask that you please consider reclassifying south industrial and all the other "flex" neighborhoods to "transition" or something that wouldn't complicate housing efforts.

I am advocating for maximum housing density because of my long-time experience as a renter here. The conditions we have to live in are deeply appalling, and the struggle to secure housing at all is worsening. There are US cities 20 times our size that have better rental opportunities than we do because they make room for growth in response to need; meanwhile Ann Arbor is bursting at the seams and remains heavily constrained. I kindly urge you to please allow our city to grow gracefully by ensuring that our residents have enough housing.

Thank you very much for reading and for your continued efforts with this plan. We are truly appreciative.