

CITY OF ANN ARBOR  
CITY CLERK  
REC'D

2008 OCT 17 PM 1:44

City of Ann Arbor  
C/O  
Mayor John Hieftje  
City Council  
Planning Commission  
100 N. Fifth Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

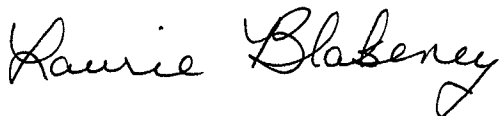
Dear Mayor John Hieftje, City Council Members and Planning Commission Members,

I sometimes think our policy makers don't remember what made Ann Arbor the wonderful city it has become. Many of you (us) moved here years ago when the big draw was moving to a city that was "young, intellectually thriving and hip". If we who have benefited our entire adult lives by living in such a stimulating environment don't take action now to insure young people can afford to live here we are writing a death sentence to the town we love. We must support projects like The Madison. We must find ways to assist young residents and new businesses a way to thrive in our downtown. Why should we bus folks into our fancy little town to serve tables, be retail clerks or clean offices? Talk about a class war!

I miss having a department store (Kline's, Jakes' and others) and a Hardware Store (Schlenkers) and a paint store (Andersons,), and a drug store (Lucky Drug) not to mention the little dress shops etc. that just couldn't keep up with the times and make it in downtown Ann Arbor. Let's change this trend now, before it is too late!

I am writing to express my support for The Madison and to encourage you to approve this project. It will increase workforce affordable housing options in the downtown area, provide housing opportunities attractive to young professionals which are significantly lacking in the downtown area and it will increase the supply of sustainable/green housing options. The Madison is appropriately located in a mixed use neighborhood, close to downtown, and provides a number of important community benefits in addition to those mentioned above.

Yours Truly,



Laurie Blakeney  
Downtown home owner – 530 N. Ashley  
Downtown Business owner – The Ann Arbor School of Yoga at 420 W. Huron