

Subject: Residential zoning proposal

From: Kira Barton

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To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

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I am a member of the Lower Burns Park community, and I am writing to request a deeper investigation and discussion around sweeping zoning laws that have the potential to significantly impact everyone in our neighborhood.

- **Displacement of families for short-term residents:** A plan to ensure lower-cost housing options for families was not clearly addressed in the proposal. The neighborhood has a significant mix of students and families, and a zoning plan that does not create opportunities for new families would be detrimental to the community and schools that are supported by these families (Burns Park, Tappen, Pioneer).
- **Lack of build restrictions:** The removal/reduction of set-backs, the lack of planning for parking, and the ability to design for unlimited units would all significantly impact the neighborhood. The lack of a plan to transition from the current to the proposed requirements would be challenging for the community. Parking is always an issue, and the building of unlimited units with NO parking considerations would put a strain on the neighborhood without complementary planning to reduce the need for a car, like improved public transportation. New developments that would cover the entire property would impact water runoff, impact existing utility infrastructure, and reduce sunlight exposure / solar panel production on existing housing units. A clear plan to transition to these new zoning laws over a period of years is needed for these efforts to result in successful integration of new developments into the community.
- **Losing the green space:** Ann Arbor has many wonderful trees throughout the city that could be at risk with the proposed zoning laws. Making sure to safe-guard existing tree coverage, and incorporate green spaces for the community is vital and would be a continuation of an approach that has benefited the city for years.

Figuring out a housing solution that addresses the needs/requirements of all of the stakeholders in the community, especially one like ours where there is a considerable mix of university student/family needs, is essential as we plan for a future city where we can all contribute to the welfare of our neighborhood.

-KB