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City of Ann Arbor
Planning and Development Services
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We have received your notice of the **1854 Upland Drive Land Division**. On September 26, 2014 my husband and I purchased the property and house at 1890 Upland Drive as our retirement home.

Before making an offer on the house, we spoke to Ralph Welton and another person in your department to verify that we would be permitted build a small studio on the property. My husband is a retired professor of art. We hired a local architectural firm to design a small renovation and addition to the house and design the studio. We contracted with Chelsea Lumber to begin the upgrade with a new front door and windows. Even at this early stage, we have made a substantial financial investment and intended to invest much more. We did this to improve not only our property, but to enhance the neighborhood and to increase our neighbors' property values. At no time did anyone in your department ever suggest that any of the lots could be split or mention the possibility of a high-density development next door. This land division does not seem contextual with the rest of the neighborhood or respectful of the residents.

We are shocked and outraged at this proposal. A month after our purchase, one neighbor mentioned that Mr. Lin said he planned to build his own house on the site this coming spring. Later, when we heard that he might also build a house for his minister, we were surprised and concerned. Now, he intends to build four houses on this property! Is he building a religious compound? If so, will they eventually request a variance to have a church on the site? What is the real intention next door? What is the long-term impact? What hubris and greed to show such disregard for other residents, property values or aesthetics!

What quality of life will we have with four houses crammed next door to our single home? For Ann Arbor's high tax rate, we expected better. You have already informed us that this is a "done deal" and we have no legal recourse. We are disillusioned and regret our decision to relocate to Ann Arbor. Your department is blithely unconcerned with our situation but, of course, every new house adds to your tax base.

We strongly protest this split and development.

Donna and Herbert Babcock