

Subject: Sports Illustrated Resort

From: Amy G
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 9:39 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Sports Illustrated Resort

In a word "no". In fact, hard no from this household for the Sports Illustrated or any resort in downtown Ann Arbor.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor and have lived in the area all but ten of my 60 years. The city has changed a great deal in that time, some for the better, some inconsistent with what I consider the core values of this university town which once was welcoming to and compassionate toward all and which helped shape who I am today and my desire to live here. Many of these changes also diminished accessibility for residents, particularly those of limited means. To now introduce a mega resort in downtown, particularly one backed by a publication which objectifies women, a resort that will eliminate a fair amount of already too sparse parking, and which will further limit resident accessibility to downtown businesses by introducing additional vehicle and human congestion will only serve to further degrade the experience for those of us who have chosen the area as our home. Perhaps the proposal would be slightly less offensive were they considering a site on the outskirts of town, a site with an abandoned building, a site in need of rehab (rather than destroying a site that is currently woods or field). But, that is not the discussion at hand and a structure of this nature, under any circumstances but particularly backed by a publication such as Sports Illustrated, simply does not belong in downtown Ann Arbor. With the expansion of the percentage of Ann Arbor owned by the University and the health system and this type of proposal, we are block by block losing our town and the values that make it a desirable place to live as well as physical and financial accessibility to the many things that have in the past made Ann Arbor a wonderful place to live.

And, while we have your attention, would ask your indulgence regarding another topic for which we have been remiss in providing feedback— bike lanes. Again, accessibility to downtown businesses as well as vehicle road safety. We believe in supporting local businesses and have had a practice of picking up dinner from downtown restaurants rather than chains when a quick run for dinner is needed. In the past, we were always able to find a parking spot for the roughly ten minute pick-up within a reasonable amount of time. After recently spending forty minutes looking for parking for a Pizza Bob's pick-up and about the same for NYPD and Palio's, we are done going slightly out of our way to support downtown business . . . for anything. Fully behind reducing carbon emissions, all for facilitating bike riding for the limited number of residents who choose that as their preferred form of transportation. Yet we find the response/solution to this question, the confusion in traffic patterns which surely has led to accidents, the blocking of lanes which has increased congestion, and the elimination of adjacent parking for a significant number of businesses to be disproportionate to the actual need and percentage of residents leveraging. Add to that the fact that for roughly six months of the year not much bike riding happens in Ann Arbor as well as the significant initial and on-going maintenance expense and we find this decision and the associated financial, accessibility, convenience, and congestion costs are difficult to understand or justify.

With appreciation for your time and hope for a change in direction that focuses on core values and quality of life and access for all residents.

Sincerely,

Amy G.