

Subject: Notice of Public Hearing Commentary

From: Dahlia Gottlieb
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 11:49 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal by David Lewis, on behalf of the property owner, to demolish the existing homes on Mary Court.

The proposed demolition is deeply concerning for a number of reasons.

First, removing these homes undermines housing affordability and tenant stability. Ann Arbor's fair housing principles—and its provisions for relocation assistance when leases aren't renewed—exist precisely to prevent displacement and ensure equitable housing access. Allowing this demolition to proceed could set a troubling precedent and effectively bypass those protections.

Second, this action would significantly erode the unique character of Mary Court, which has long stood as a welcoming, tight-knit community for both undergraduate and graduate students. The existing homes reflect the established neighborhood fabric, and replacing them with new developments would fundamentally alter the area's identity.

Third, the plan would contribute to overcrowding and overpopulation in an area already struggling with limited space and resources. Rather than improving living conditions, this approach risks worsening them for future residents.

Fourth, the project risks exacerbating parking congestion, which is already a known issue in this neighborhood. Increased density without appropriate infrastructure planning will only make the situation worse for both current residents and the surrounding community.

Fifth, had we known there was any possibility that we would not be able to remain in our home for the duration of our two years in law school, my roommates and I would have sought other housing options. We fully intend to renew our lease and will face significant hardship if we, along with other students on Mary Court, are forced to secure new housing at the same time.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the human cost. The stress of losing housing, often with limited notice, inflicts real emotional and academic harm on students who rely on Mary Court as a stable home. The disruption of community ties and security can have lasting consequences that go beyond housing alone.

For these reasons, I urge the City Planning Commission to reject this demolition proposal and to preserve the character, affordability, and livability of Mary Court.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dahlia Gottlieb