

From: Planning
Subject: Opposition to development between 4th and 5th Streets

From: Nina Dutta
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 10:56 AM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Opposition to development between 4th and 5th Streets

To whom it may concern,

I recently read about the Subtext development being planned south of the Library along 4th and 5th Streets and would like to voice my opposition to the plan. I was a UM undergraduate and law student and lived at 402 S. 5th for two years as a junior and senior in undergrad. Living in that apartment was my first experience escaping the UM bubble and feeling like I was actually part of the Ann Arbor community - it had character and felt like a real home, and it is a large part of what prompted me to return to Ann Arbor and buy a home this year.

To be clear, I now live on the east side of town, far from this part of the city. This is not a NIMBY sentiment. I believe in dense city housing and understand the need for it (again - I was a student and know this struggle). But I do not believe that demolishing what is relatively affordable housing is the solution to AA's housing troubles.

My shared apartment at 402 S. 5th was renovated and funkily redesigned by the owners, and it was \$1400/month in 2014. Nearby, sterile highrises that my friends stayed in were renting for \$1200 *per room*. I have seen the same high (and higher) pricing at every successive highrise that has popped up in recent years in town, and frankly it is appalling. I cannot imagine that a massive new highrise in the area will do anything beyond attract wealthier students to the exclusion of lower income ones and long-term residents - and my understanding is that one is already approved to replace the nearby credit union. I have seen the other side of this problem in my prior residence in San Francisco, which has plenty of available luxury apartments in concrete boxes, as well as plenty of unhoused people who can no longer afford to live in their own city.

Please do not turn into San Francisco. I implore you to do what you can to keep this part of the community intact, unique, and relatively affordable, or better yet, find a way to renovate these homes and improve what we have for future renters.

Best,

Nina Dutta (she / hers)