

Bowden (King), Anissa

From: Katherine Lawrence [kathla@umich.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 2:11 PM
To: Bowden (King), Anissa
Subject: For distribution to City Council for October 6 meeting

Dear Ms. Bowden,

Please distribute the following letter to the members of the City Council. It concerns the hearing on October 6 regarding the proposed building at 601 Forest.

Thank you for your help,
Katherine Lawrence

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Dear members of the Ann Arbor City Council,

We will be out of town on Monday, October 6, when the hearing is scheduled for the proposed building at 601 Forest. We hope this letter will offer support for the many Ann Arbor residents who oppose the construction of this enormous building.

We are very concerned about the proposed 26-story apartment building. We recognize that undergraduate housing is in demand, and we're even in favor of the increased collocation of housing and businesses, as is the norm in most European communities. We admire the efforts that Ann Arbor developers have made to grow Ann Arbor as a city in which people can live close to the commercial sites where they shop and work.

We believe that the proposed structure would be more damaging than it would be beneficial. It will fundamentally alter what makes Ann Arbor a great place to live. We are proud to live in a city that has aspirations of being "green" and offers a small-town feel. A 26-story building would change the character and comfort of the neighborhood, and frankly, the University Towers building across the street should not be considered an admirable precedent for this project. Ann Arbor should not aspire to be a city of high-rises. What makes Ann Arbor different—and enhances the quality of life for all—is that it provides housing and buildings that are at a human scale and that make the city comfortable and walkable.

We urge our city council and zoning authorities to scale down this and any proposed apartment building to a reasonable height that retains the quality of life for all of Ann Arbor's citizens.

Sincerely,

Katherine Lawrence and Darryl Weber
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