

**Subject:** 2026 Zoning Reform

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**From:** Matthew Oishi  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 6:33 PM  
**To:** City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** 2026 Zoning Reform

Hello,  
my name is Matthew Oishi, I live in ward 5 on Allen dr.

I'm writing to encourage city council and planning commission to pursue broad zoning reforms in 2026. From what I have heard recently and understand, it was mentioned in a meeting(12/16/25) that the plan to change zoning would be done all at once for the whole city and take several years. Like many others, I believe we can't wait several years. Something needs to happen sooner, and this year would be a meaningful start.

It is very telling when I talk with strangers and friends, or read conversations on reddit and facebook. When housing comes up, the comments are pretty consistent: "it's crazy, the rent is comparable to California or NYC," "move to Ypsi or further, it's cheaper," or "even businesses are struggling to pay rent" Ann Arbor is in a housing crisis. It is serious, and it is getting worse every year.

I grew up here and have been fortunate to live here for most of my adult life. I have seen this city change a lot, and I hope to continue seeing it change in more constructive and progressive ways. I still live and work here, but being priced out is a reality close to me. It is a privilege to be able to bike or walk to work, and in my free time to easily reach a favorite cafe, shop, park, or a friend's place. Imagine this city, if more people who want that kind of lifestyle could actually afford to live here for as long as they want.

I often hear "transience" used to describe Ann Arbor as a kind of identity, or label at least. It used to apply mainly to the university and its students, but now it increasingly applies to everyone: individuals, couples, and families alike. I think it is worth asking whether this is the unofficial identity we want for the foreseeable future.

I could say a lot more, but I hope my point is clear. Let's take meaningful steps to make Ann Arbor more affordable, inclusive, and cool where we are able to thrive with a vibrant, stable community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Matt