

Subject: ZBA23-0035; Avant Avenue

From: Jay B

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 1:36 PM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: ZBA23-0035; Avant Avenue

Hello,

My name is Jay W. Belle Isle and I have been a resident at Surrey Park Apartments (2532 Keystone Lane) for 27 years. We are the tiny complex next door to the above-referenced property. I'm writing to comment on Araneae, Inc.'s request for a variance to allow for **13 illuminated logo signs approximately 35 feet above the ground.**

As I'm sure you're aware, the average distance from the ground of most highway bulletin boards is 20-30 feet. Araneae wants 13 ILLUMINATED logo signs that are going to be taller than the average highway bulletin board.

Granting this variance will turn that complex and my neighborhood into the equivalent of a shopping center parking lot. It's bad enough that in even building this eyesore, Araneae cut down a beautifully forested area. Now, they want signs that will be the obnoxious equivalent of highway bulletin boards? What, are they afraid that people will forget where they live? One such sign is MORE than sufficient to advertise this miserably over-priced project. Thirteen such signs is essentially a middle finger flipped to all of us who call this neighborhood home. Really, unless Araneae is financing someone's campaign, there is NO LOGICAL REASON to approve this variance. Unless, of course, Araneae wants to drive us all out, buy up the land, and build more "affordable" housing.

I ask you, please, do NOT grant this variance. This complex is already going to put a HUGE strain on the water/sewer system and roads as it is; must we really have these ridiculous, oversized, ILLUMINATED signs?

As a closer, let me just say that as a longtime Ann Arbor resident, I never miss an election. If this variance is approved, I promise that I won't miss the next election for mayor (the one who appoints you), and I won't be voting for the incumbent. In fact, I'll be voting for whoever will appoint a commission that cares more about existing residents than greedy builders.

It pains me to write the above paragraph, as I never want to be that kind of "Karen." However, it seems that logical discourse is a dead tool in politics these days and the only thing that matters is getting votes. So, if you are decent people, I apologize for the above paragraph.

Sincerely,
Jay W. Belle Isle