

**From:** Rose & Gene Wilson [mailto:[rogewil@gmail.com](mailto:rogewil@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2010 8:30 PM  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Convention Center

February 26, 2010

Dear Planning Commission Members,

Having lived in and loved downtown Ann Arbor for 37 years before leaving it for a retirement home, its future means a lot to me. My husband and I have always been proponents of downtown density. We have supported apartment buildings when others wanted to cling to historical remnants of old housing. But in my opinion, the proposed Convention Center is not what the downtown needs.

The ugliness of one of the proposed buildings is enough to warrant its demise right there. It appears as though in lieu of a handsome building, the architect has hoped to be original by defying gravity. But worse, it is not the kind of density we need. The in and out traffic of a Convention Center will merely crowd out what is needed for downtown – permanent residents, the kind that will bring stores that cater to them, not more restaurants, we have plenty of those, not more outfits selling souvenirs and arty objects. We need people for whom downtown is home.

But the most objectionable aspect of the proposed Convention Center is that in a society that prides itself on capitalist endeavor, the capitalists behind this endeavor expect the City to run the risk for them, to finance the project, and in very unsettled economic times at that. If private capital is not willing to stick their necks out, City Council has no right to expose the necks of Ann Arbor citizens.

Please, put a park and/or community center there. At least for now. Give Ann Arbor residents who live downtown, and Ann Arbor residents who come downtown, a center that will be meaningful in their lives.

Sincerely,

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