

**From:** [Julie Ritter](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Planning](#); [Stults, Missy](#)  
**Subject:** Downtown Vacancies  
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Hello City Council People, Planning People, Sustainability Office,

As one after another of our long time, downtown businesses close, we are given constant reassurance from "the powers that be" that it will only be a short time before the ground floor retail of the new high rises are occupied by a new set of unique, attractive, hopefully local businesses that will once again start to provide the cachet for which Ann Arbor has been known in the past.

This article from Strong Towns provides good evidence that the City's claims may not pan out.

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2025/5/21/why-do-commercial-spaces-sit-vacant>

Respectfully,

Julie Ritter