

Subject: Support for increased density

From: Margaret McCall
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:34 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Cc: City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Support for increased density

To the Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of reforming Ann Arbor's zoning to allow for higher density housing and mixed-use development. As a homeowner and parent in the Buhr Park neighborhood, higher-density housing matters to me for reasons of vibrancy, walkability, and affordability.

I would personally welcome the vibrancy and walkability that comes with higher density. Before moving to Ann Arbor, I lived in Hyde Park in Austin and in the Mission District in San Francisco. Both of these neighborhoods are made wonderful by their higher density and mixed use: they have fourplexes, brownstones, and small apartment complexes mixed among the single-family homes; coffeeshops and restaurants are accessible throughout the neighborhood.

I love my home and my neighborhood in A2, but increasing walkability would make a big difference in my life. I'm thrilled to see the new development taking place on Packard near York, and am hopeful to see new businesses on the ground floor; I wish that the George had similar ground-floor commercial activity. One of the previous public comments on this topic stated: "I am not against increased density in our neighborhoods, but I am against losing the personalities and characteristics of our long established neighborhoods." To me, increasing density would only inject more personality into my neighborhood and our city.

I am also well aware of the fact that not everyone is lucky enough to be able to own a home in Ann Arbor, or even to rent here. When we first moved to town, I was shocked at how difficult and expensive it was to find a place to rent. Making it easier to build more housing will be a huge step in the right direction, even if that housing is not specifically "affordable": it is well documented that adding more market-rate housing lowers rents across the board. Affordability is a key part of maintaining a diverse and healthy community – Ann Arbor must not become like Aspen, which has an inbound traffic jam every morning as low-wage workers commute from cheaper neighboring towns.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and efforts to engage the community in updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I'm looking forward to keeping up with the process! Ann Arbor has a big opportunity ahead of it.

Sincerely,
Margaret McCall