

From: Steve Allen
To: Planning
Subject: AA Housing Ordinance - limiting 6 people per residence on campus
Date: Sunday, September 7, 2025 8:34:19 PM

Hello,

City Council member Jen Eyer suggested I email you.

My name is Steve Allen and I reside in the 4th ward. We have a son attending UM and recently discovered the city has a housing ordinance (Unified Development Code, section 5.16.1) that limits the # of occupants in a house to a maximum of 6 unrelated people. Note - the same code allows 4 persons plus all their offspring to live together. So, this is not a safety ordinance.

This ordinance, while likely well intentioned, seems to run contrary to the City's goal of providing more affordable housing.

- We have seen 7 bedroom houses offered for lease - but with a 6 person maximum. This doesn't seem to make any sense.

I am writing to ask if you would consider changing this ordinance to something that meets the spirit of the original law (though admittedly I'm not sure of what reasons drove this ordinance), but allows more occupancy in a reasonable way. While there have been a number of new student apartments built in Ann Arbor, these are "luxury" student apartments - where the rent may be out of reach for a lot of students.

I wonder if changing the law to allow larger houses to house more students would help in this affordability crisis. I would think any house with at least 4 bedrooms could easily accommodate more than 6 people w/o overcrowding.

Thank you for considering this.

- Steve Allen