

From: Daniel Rosenbaum

Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 11:37 AM

To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>

Subject: Expressing Support for 312 East Huron Hotel Project (and inquiring about "Brown Block")

Good morning,

Because I wasn't able to attend the public meeting last week, I wanted to share a short message expressing my support for this project. My family lives just west of downtown and believe that Ann Arbor's greatest asset is its walkability. Parking lots in the downtown area make the city less walkable, lower density, reduce business activity, and ultimately leave Ann Arbor with retail vacancies and housing shortages -- exactly the problem we are seeing today.

For this reason, I support any development that replaces a parking lot with people. Any resident of our community who supports its economic health and environmental sustainability should agree, but I realize that some people are instinctively opposed to change. I'm sure you realize that those voices are loud but rarely reflect a majority of the community.

In addition, along similar lines, I'd hope that any discussion with First Martin about its property at 312 East Huron would also include future planning for the "Brown Block" just west on Huron, between First and Ashley. This full-block parking lot has no place in a walkable community and has created a dead, underinvested area at the corner of downtown. The lot is never full. Meanwhile, business vacancies grow on the surrounding blocks and Ann Arbor continues to lack sufficient housing. Developing this block and bringing more people to this underserved corner of downtown should be a priority for the administration.

Thank you,

Daniel Rosenbaum

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