

Bowden (King), Anissa

From: Carol Mull [caramul@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2008 4:34 PM
To: Bowden (King), Anissa
Subject: 601 Forest project

Dear City Council members,

I am strongly opposed to approval of the proposed building at 601 Forest. The structure is too tall and too massive for the site and the neighborhood. Instead of helping revitalize South University, the building will be a huge, unwelcoming barrier. It is way out of scale for the fraternity and sorority houses and nearby shops.

I have lived in the Burns Park area for 30 years. It has been a pleasure to witness the positive changes downtown. Downtown was turned around by restoration of the original buildings and making Main Street pedestrian friendly. The proposal for South U. is the opposite. The intersection at Washtenaw will be congested, the street will be shadowed and intimidating. I can't imagine how difficult it will be getting on and off the bus at that location. How many times will the streets be blocked by delivery trucks and drop-offs. And, why are these called "student apartments" when the apartments will be rented to anyone.

I participated in the Calthorpe meetings and we recommended building height restrictions. What happened to our suggestions? I am very disappointed that I volunteered hours of my time to help my community and all that effort is being ignored.

I believe City Council should represent the citizens of Ann Arbor. I have not met one citizen in favor of this building or any buildings this tall. Please consider the wishes of the neighborhood and tax-paying city dwellers.

Carol Mull
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Bowden (King), Anissa

From: Ara Paul [arapaul@umich.edu]
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2008 3:36 PM
To: jheiftje@a2gov.org; Bowden (King), Anissa
Subject: Proposed Building at 601Forest

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

As a long-time resident of the Burns Park area and as a University of Michigan faculty member for some 50 years, I join many others in objecting to the approval of the proposed 25 story building at the corner of S. University and Forest.

I walk most days from my home on Brooklyn Avenue to the University's main campus. It has been bad enough to have to deal with the problems caused by University Towers in the winter, especially the canyon-effect caused by that 18 story structure. Adding another monstrosity diagonally from it can't help but exacerbate the wind tunnel effect on South University. My guess is that, especially during snow, both walking and driving will be even more hazardous. Add to that problem, the increased congestion, both pedestrian and vehicular, and we destined to have serious problems in that area that may result in grave harm.

Parking for those who have to drive, and this includes commuting University students, is already a serious problem. I am told that the building will only provide one parking space for every five residents!

Ludicrous in this day and age, regardless of one's beliefs regarding students owning cars.

We do not need a structure such as the one called for here in Ann Arbor. If I understand correctly, this structure ignores guidelines for height and scale recommended by two independent consultants commissioned by the City in 2005 and 2007. Why will Council ignore their own paid consultants?

Voters in Ann Arbor will be watching City Council very closely for the results of the hearing on this matter scheduled for October 6, 2008. I for one, will not vote for anyone in the November election who approves this building proposal despite my long-standing of voting mostly for Democratic candidates.

Sincerely,

Ara G. Paul
1415 Brooklyn Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104