

From: Christina Tabaczka <ctab@umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; HDC <HDC@a2gov.org>; Thacher, Jill <JThacher@a2gov.org>; City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Subject: Fwd: New Kerrytown Affordable Housing Project

Greetings Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, Mayor & City Council

Below is an email thread with Jennifer Hall, Housing Commission, regarding the new Kerrytown Housing Project and the adjacent Braun court properties. I wanted to share my thoughts about Braun Court, which is steps away from the Old Fourth Ward Historic District. I wanted my concerns to be on your radar.

Jennifer's reply was to contact the property owners, which struck me as rather condescending and dismissive, especially regarding an area that may be of historical significance to the history of African Americans in Ann Arbor.

Thank you for your time.

Christina Tabaczka

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hall, Jennifer (Housing Commission) <JHall@a2gov.org>
Date: Sat, Nov 12, 2022 at 5:58 PM
Subject: RE: New Kerrytown Affordable Housing Project
To: Christina Tabaczka <ctab@umich.edu>

Hi Christina, thank you for sharing. There have been similar thoughts and discussions in the community about the future of those properties. I would suggest that you contact the owners of the properties, because they control the future use of the site and you can let them know about your concerns.

Take care,

Jennifer Hall

From: Christina Tabaczka <ctab@umich.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Hall, Jennifer (Housing Commission) <JHall@a2gov.org>
Subject: New Kerrytown Affordable Housing Project

Greetings! I just read with great interest an article in the Ann Arbor News about the plans for the new housing project at the corner of Catherine and 4th Avenue, and its focus on African American history or the neighborhood. Based on the rendering, I see this building will be directly beside the homes in Braun Court.

As a long time patron of the businesses that were previously in Braun Court: the Aut Bar, Common Language Bookstore and the Jim Toy Community Center, to see this beautiful courtyard and homes boarded up and vacant is a tragedy. I suspect that these homes were originally owned by members of the African American Community.

I strongly urge you and the other organizations working on the new housing project to consider saving these homes and absorbing them into the plans.

Think of the possible organizations/businesses that could reside in these buildings adjacent to the housing project: African American owned retail or restaurants, artists studios or galleries, community multi use spaces etc.

I know real estate is expensive, but my friends that used to frequent the previous business have had many discussions about how to save Braun Court. This seems to be an amazing opportunity for the city of Ann Arbor to reclaim these houses for the African American community or for the history of this area in general, especially based on the location.

Just so you know, I have an even deeper connection to this area, as a 1976 graduate of Community High School. The school and a community group are working on celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Jones School, another source of deep connection to the historical African American community of Kerrytown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christina Tabaczka

751 Watersedge Drive

Ann Arbor resident for 64 years!