



"Submit Comment to City Council" from Cathy J Levine

Bexley Website <emcguinness@bexley.org>
To: nvawter@bexley.org

Mon, Feb 12, 2024 at 5:35 PM

Someone submitted this comment to City Council:

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Council?: Yes

Your
Name:: Cathy J Levine

Your Email
Address:: cathyjlevine@gmail.com

Your
Home
Address:: [908 Grandon Avenue](#)

Your
comment
to the
Bexley
City
Council:: February 12, 2024
Re: Proposed Zoning Changes along Livingston Avenue Corridor
Dear Mayor Kessler and Members of Bexley City Council:

I am writing to express my gratitude to you and my support for your efforts to enact zoning changes that would allow mixed-use construction along the Livingston Avenue Corridor. I regret that I will be out of town and unable to attend the February 13 hearing in person.

We moved to our current home in July 1991 and, despite having the financial ability to move “up,” we stayed put and raised our two boys here (both are graduates of Montrose and BHS). We have always loved the walkability and close neighborhood feel but wished for more diversity. Thus, we cheered the proposal to construct an affordable housing development for individuals and families at a range of incomes and were disappointed when it was halted by a legal challenge. Despite fears by neighbors, research demonstrates that building well-managed affordable housing will not depress housing values, increase traffic, or bring other problems.

My husband and I grew up in Chicago and NYC. Through travel, our kids became accustomed to the cultural richness of city living and seek diversity in race, ethnicity, cultures, and incomes to enhance their quality of life. (One lives in Boston, the other is returning to Chicago after grad school and an extra year in Austin, TX). They know that diversity makes cities (even small ones) richer. Growing our community by diversifying the housing stock will teach our children to embrace diversity, enhance our downtown, and attract younger people to settle here.

Riding our tandem bicycle all over the Columbus area, my husband and I are acutely aware of the stark racial and economic segregation here, as well as the gentrification of downtown neighborhoods that is driving people with lower incomes farther away from Columbus' core. My husband, who has worked at Children's Hospital since 1991, has watched as housekeeping and other low-wage staff have gone from walking to work to commuting long distances because of gentrification. That's just not right.

Bexley has an obligation, as part of greater Columbus, to open our community and great schools to families with lower incomes. As the non-profit Families Flourish (formerly Move to Proper) showed, children and single mothers who move from “low opportunity” to “higher opportunity” communities both see the children and breadwinners thrive.

In summary, diversifying housing enriches our community in so many ways. Thank you for your support of these changes.

Very truly yours,
Cathy Levine

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