

To Whom on the Planning Commission it May Concern,

I am a proud Lake Orion resident in my 30's and have lived here my entire life. I live in the surrounding area of 625 West Clarkston Road, which is the parcel under rezoning. I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposition that it be rezoned for townhomes. Over the past 10 years in particular, my family and I have noticed all the beautiful trees that provide shade and aesthetics in Lake Orion being bulldozed, the natural curvature of the land being flattened, more blacktop being laid just to pave the way for more housing complexes and strip malls. Its a disturbing trend that local residents detest. In the city where "Living is a Vacation," over the past 10 years or so, it is feeling less and less like living in a vacation area. Lake Orion is building up into a large city, and losing its "Vacation" status and "Small Town" charm that used to define it.

It baffles me that the city sends out surveys about what new pathways the citizens want built to enjoy the natural beauty of untouched land, but simultaneously you are stripping our communities of that natural beauty just to put man's footprint on more of it. What I am proposing to you is to question when enough is enough.

If we have learned anything from the disruption in supply chain from the pandemic, it has been how to become more self-reliant. How can people become more self-reliant if all the land is being used to build more complexes like townhomes? There has to be a balance with the earth. It is fact that areas with more blacktop or cement raise temperatures substantially, which in turn affects wildlife and the ecosystem in the surrounding area, not to mention drives up homeowner costs like air conditioning. With all the strip malls and housing complexes being built around here, your commission is responsible for creating that "bad vacation" (you know the one, where you are camping with all your kids, it unexpectedly rains so much that it floods, your tent breaks, everything gets soaked, then you have to drive an hour at 1 o'clock in the morning to find a hotel to sleep in- ok, maybe that was just my family but you probably have a vacation of your own that you wish would just end so you could get back to the comfort of your home) that residents can't escape from. Our homes are supposed to be a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle, the unpredictability of life, and the place you retreat to with family to unwind and feel connected to nature. Except there is no nature to commune with. Instead, our backyards are being bombarded with more people, more noise, more lights, more heat, more more more, as many as we can squeeze into as small a space as possible. When is the city of Lake Orion going to ask, "When is enough, enough?" Is the leadership of Lake Orion willing to put the quality of life of each citizen over profit?

In conclusion, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the rezoning and implore your committee to reexamine your goals and the overall health and wellbeing of the land we are blessed to occupy.

With Gratitude of Your Time,
Kate Erdman

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