



A2YChamber
ANN ARBOR / YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER

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March 15th, 2013

Ann Arbor City Council
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear Mayor Hieftje and members of the Ann Arbor City Council:

We write to share The A2Y Regional Chamber's opposition to the proposed Resolution on the upcoming Agenda for City Council, which would place a moratorium on downtown development. The Chamber does not believe there is a public need for a moratorium on downtown development, even if the City chooses to conduct a review of the current downtown zoning ordinance. Our current downtown development zoning is the product of a multi-year review by City Council, which culminated in comprehensive amendments to the Zoning Ordinance which created the D1 and D2 districts for downtown in 2009: (www.a2gov.org/a2d2/zoning/Pages/Zoning.aspx). The 2009 D1/D2 downtown zoning ordinance resulted in a workable framework and process, with relatively clear rules and procedure, which balances the various interests of the community.

As with any legislation, the D1/D2 zoning ordinance does not address all of the issues to everyone's satisfaction. On matters such as aesthetics, appearance, and design, which may not be strictly governed by the ordinance, the Chamber encourages developers and community members to try where possible to reach common ground. Such local engagement will help ensure that developments gain not only legal approval, but public acceptance, and this will engender lasting community support for our carefully designed D1/D2 downtown zoning structure.

For the certainty and predictability needed to foster beneficial downtown development, and the corresponding economic and community benefits which the City has endorsed in the 2009 D1/D2 Zoning Ordinance, we ask that you oppose this moratorium. Thank you for your consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (734) 214-0101.

Sincerely,

Diane Keller, President & CEO
A2Y Regional Chamber

Doug McClure, Chair
A2Y Chamber Public Policy Committee