

Elizabeth M. Shadigian & Michael Elizabeth Jackson
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April 27, 2014

Alexis DiLeo, Wendy Rampson
City of Ann Arbor Planning & Development Services
310 E. Huron Street
Larcom City Hall
First Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Re: 1919 Wayne Street Special Exception Request

Dear concerned parties,

We are **firmly against** the 1919 Wayne Street Special Exception Request to the current single family zoning for that property. We live directly across the street from 1919 Wayne and find compelling reasons for our neighbors and the Planning Commission to reject such an arrangement that will most probably, in perpetuity, allow many unrelated people to live in an otherwise single family neighborhood. We will not duplicate here our shared concerns already well delineated by Prue Heikkinen, our next door neighbor. Elizabeth has lived at 1916 Wayne for 20 years, and Michael for 12 years.

Elizabeth is a physician who is nationally known for her specialization in the lifelong consequences of the sexual and physical abuse of women. Michael is a retired social worker who is nationally known for his work with male perpetrators of sexual and physical abuse of women and children, and the societal and institutional obstacles to holding perpetrators accountable.

We take pride in living in a city and neighborhood that appreciates and defends diversity and civil rights. We do not choose to encourage or participate in anti-woman sentiment and housing practices. The Jesuits are a patriarchal institution that has, for centuries, chosen to discriminate against women by denying membership to them and we vehemently oppose that. This might have a different sense to us if the Jesuits and the home did not categorically exclude women or were to be used as a sanctuary and learning place for women to ascend to any position of leadership or authority in the Jesuit organization or Catholic Church. The Jesuit Order is asking us for a Special Exception to our unalterable conviction that discrimination against women is wrong. We are vehemently opposed to the Planning Commission, and thus the City of Ann Arbor, **discriminating against women through the veil of gendered housing discrimination/this Special Exception.**

We are also very concerned with the dismal record the Society of Jesus and Catholic Church have demonstrated regarding their practitioner's pedophilia, sexual, and other abuse of human beings, and not only the utter disregard of their own accountability, but active cover-up and avoidance of responsibility. Both of these patriarchal organizations have amply demonstrated their institutional commitment to protect their member sex offenders by such tactics as first, the total denial of this

activity; second, **sex offender relocation, internationally and intranationally**, at the expense of congregations they victimize; third, payoffs to families of victims for their silence, defending their predators in court, and attacking the credibility of victims.

Criminal background checks, through the State of Michigan and the FBI, of any proposed residents of this home still would not assure us that no one under investigation/suspicion of sexual offenses is housed, even temporarily, at 1919 Wayne Street. There is no known successful treatment of sex offenders and recidivism is practically 100%. Our neighborhood and Ann Arbor government would be profoundly irresponsible and collusive to offer the Jesuits and Catholic Church indefinite access to our children by this housing change.

Even if we could be certain that no sex offender would ever live at 1919 Wayne Street, we would still be staunchly opposed to yet another all-male society that hides behind Religious Privileges to perpetrate membership and housing gender discrimination.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Shadigian, MD, FACOG
Owner, WomanSafeHealth
Fellow, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Diplomate, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Faculty/Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan 1994-2006
Member, St. Thomas Catholic Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Co-founder, Battered Women and Children's Memorial Garden



Michael Elizabeth Jackson, MSW
Owner, Home Mender
University of Michigan Alumni, School of Social Work
Former Director of Drug and Alcohol Services & Male Accountability Specialist, Alternatives to Domestic Aggression, Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County
Co-founder, Battered Women and Children's Memorial Garden