



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-8647
www.a2gov.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ANN ARBOR AREA, HEIGHT AND PLACEMENT PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

ANN ARBOR, Mich., May 13, 2009 — A series of public meetings have been scheduled to discuss proposed amendments to Chapters 55 (Zoning) and Chapter 59 (Off-Street Parking) pertaining primarily to the Area, Height and Placement standards that regulate density, height and setbacks in the City of Ann Arbor. The proposed code amendments will update older ordinance requirements and compliment sustainable land use practices.

Background

Many of the development standards in the Area, Height and Placement schedule of Chapter 55 were established in the 1950s and 1960s. These standards addressed the tremendous post-war growth occurring in Ann Arbor and many communities across the United States as population, employment and retail centers expanded into former agricultural areas. In many ways, the standards reflected the sprawling planning values of the day by calling for segregated land uses, wide streets, large parking lots, large setbacks, single-story buildings, auto-oriented retail centers, and low intensity employment centers.

More recently, current best practices in land use planning and environmental design recommend a more efficient use of land and infrastructure which can provide a number of community benefits including:

- Preserving and enhancing natural features.
- Supporting mass transit by focusing growth along major transportation corridors in existing urban areas which already have utility infrastructure.
- Locating buildings closer to sidewalks to promote non-motorized access.
- Encouraging business expansion within the city instead of in outlying areas that do not have access to transit.
- Supporting the redevelopment of outdated retail centers.
- Encouraging new residential uses along mass transit corridors.
- Locating some parking under new buildings.

Meeting Dates*

(NOTE: Since this press release was originally distributed, the meeting end times have been corrected to 8 p.m. rather than 9 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience.)

The dialog will begin with a community-wide meeting and then meetings will be held in each of the five city wards. A final meeting (date to be determined) to report back to the community will be held after the five ward meetings. You are welcome to attend any or all of the meetings listed below:

- **Wednesday, May 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**
Community-wide Meeting at CTN Studios, 2805 S. Industrial
- **Thursday, June 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**
Ward 1 Meeting at Traverwood Branch Library Program Room, 3333 Traverwood Dr.
- **Wednesday, June 17 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**
Ward 2 Meeting at Traverwood Branch Library Program Room, 3333 Traverwood Dr.
- **Wednesday, July 1 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**
Ward 3 Meeting at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Rd.
- **Thursday, July 23 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**
Ward 4 Meeting at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Rd.
- **Thursday, July 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**
Ward 5 Meeting at Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport Rd.

(more)

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For more information or to provide feedback, please contact Jeff Kahan, City Planner at the City's Planning and Development Services Unit. Call 734.794.6265 ext 42614 or e-mail jkahan@a2gov.org

For more information about the project, please see the project webpage at <http://www.a2gov.org/government/communityservices/planninganddevelopment/planning/Pages/AreaHeightPlacementProject.aspx>

* Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Accommodations, including sign language interpreters, may be arranged by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 734.994.2725 or by written request via e-mail to jbeaudry@a2gov.org, or mailed or delivered to the City Clerk's Office, 100 N. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Requests need to be received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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