

April 12, 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 oppose the proposed ordinance amendment before the Ann Arbor City Council pertaining to the City's Downtown Development Authority (DDA). There are many important issues brought forth within this ordinance, but paramount is the proposed change to the current Ordinance procedure for calculating potential rebates of higher than anticipated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues back to taxing units, which the DDA calculates using its judgment within the standards set by the Ordinance.

We believe the DDA has done and continues to do good and important work for Ann Arbor's downtown, benefitting all of Ann Arbor. The fact that higher than expected TIF revenues make it possible to rebate additional funds to the taxing units is a testament to the DDA's fine execution of the approved 30 Year Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan, which Council adopted in 2003. The 30 Year Plan, and the Ordinance adopting it in 2003, provide adequate guidance for the DDA's use of TIF funds, and provide for appropriate transparency and Council oversight of DDA activities and accounting.

In short, the DDA is working as intended, benefiting the downtown and the community at large, within the authority and guidance set by Council in 2003, and we do not believe there is a demonstrated public need to amend the City's DDA ordinance. As we begin the second decade of the approved 30 year plan, we look forward to supporting both the DDA in accomplishing its authorized mission, and the City in performing its appropriate oversight activities.

Sincerely,




**Diane Keller**  
President & CEO  
A2Y Regional Chamber



**Ray Detter**  
Chair  
Downtown Citizens Advisory Council



**Maura Thomson**  
President  
Main Street Area Association



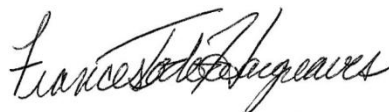
**Tom Heywood**  
President  
State Street Area Association



**Maggie Ladd**  
President  
South University Area Association



**Karen Ehrheart Farmer**  
Manager  
Kerrytown Market & Shops  
Board Member  
Kerrytown District Association



**Frances Todoro-Hargreaves**  
Business Manager  
State Street Area Association



**Jim Balmer**  
President  
Dawn Farms