

Dear Neighbors:

October 12, 2024

I am a 73 year old (almost lifetime) resident of the Bailey neighborhood. I even went to Bailey School as a youngster. I completely support Proposal One, and I would like you to take time to read this missive and consider my concerns.

Proposal One is not about students living in our neighborhoods. It will not overturn rental regulations or change Overlay Districts or allow short term rentals. It is about our freedom and rights to live with whomever we want.

Did you ever watch the television show "Golden Girls"? As I age (hopefully in place), I would like to be able to have a couple of other senior friends live with me and share household responsibilities (such as cleaning, cooking, driving, shoveling, etc.)

Judge Giddings explained how the City Code limits guests (see the reverse side). An unrelated guest may live in your home 30 consecutive days (or 60 days/year). After living in your home beyond that time, the guest who pays no rent becomes defined as a Tenant by existing City Code and must obtain a license or fit a license exception. In my neighborhood, I cannot obtain a rental license to allow them to live with me and avoid fines. I am voting for Prop 1 to change the law to have friends live with me. This will greatly improve my quality of life, and maybe yours in the future. Let me give you a couple of the reasons why.

I have a cousin, who is in her 80's, I think I should be able to have her come live with me as we both continue to age, or if one of my children's mother-in-law's, should they become a widow, but now that would not be allowed. I worked for MSU as a development officer for a variety of colleges and units. If I offered a "scholarship", I would like to offer a graduate student, medical student or nursing student and their family to live rent free as a guest while they attend school. This would reduce the money they would spend in pursuit of their education.

What if one of my sisters or brothers-in-law had a grandchild attending MSU and living with me? Under current ordinances, they couldn't do it. It is just plain wrong! A few years ago I was moving a desk from the first floor to the basement by myself, when the desk took over and I fell and did a faceplant on the cement floor. I fractured my skull, had a brain bleed, and broke my eye socket. I called the neighbors, who took me to the hospital, and I ended up spending a week in the Neuro ICU. Had I had friends living with me and helping move the desk, this wouldn't have happened.

I believe I should be able to have anyone live **with me** in my home. As long as I am living in the house that I own, I should be able to invite anyone to live with me! "Aging in place" is important for senior citizens like me. Not being alone in the house or lonely is important. Having a social life and shared experiences is important. Emotional support is important! Are you really against these possibilities? Please support Proposal One, and make East Lansing a welcoming environment for senior citizens and aging in place.

Barbara Ball-McClure