



## **Advocacy Alert – Background Information on the City of Ann Arbor Y Lot**

### **Background**

The “Y Lot” is located on the north side of William Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues in Ann Arbor, across from the downtown library and adjacent to Blake Transit Center. Once the former site of the **now-demolished YMCA which had 100 units of affordable housing**, the City of Ann Arbor sold the property to local developer Dennis Dahlmann for \$5.25 million in 2014. Dahlmann committed to redevelop the site within four years (by April 2018), or as part of the sale agreement, the City would have the right to re-purchase the Y Lot for \$4.2 million, less than what the City sold it for several years ago. It is estimated the property is now worth about \$10 million.

**Since affordable housing was part of what was demolished on the site many years ago, the WHA encourages City of Ann Arbor residents and community members to contact their elected officials and urge them to vote in favor of re-purchasing the Y Lot.**

While a majority of Ann Arbor City Council members are now in favor of repurchasing the Y Lot from Dahlmann, eight votes are needed in order for the City to re-purchase the site; at the [April 2 City Council meeting](#), only 7 Council members indicated they were in favor of re-purchasing the Y Lot. **Anne Bannister (Ward 1), Sumi Kailasapathy (Ward 1), and Jack Eaton (Ward 4) voted against repurchasing the lot; Jane Lumm (Ward 2) was not in attendance.** We need one of these Council members to vote in favor of re-purchasing the site!

### **What You Can Do**

[Email City of Ann Arbor Council Members](#) TODAY and encourage them to vote in favor of re-purchasing the Y Lot, when the matter is expected to be discussed at their [Monday, April 16 City Council meeting](#). Here are a few talking points you can use:

- Under the original purchase agreement, the City will re-purchase the Lot for \$4.2 million, about ***\$1 million less than what the City sold it for*** originally. It is estimated the property is now worth \$10 million, if it were developed, so **re-gaining control of the site is a fiscally-responsible decision.**
- Re-purchasing the property, which has sat vacant for years, will **give the City control over how the property is developed** in the future. If the City re-sold the land, the money could be used for whatever use the community deems appropriate, such as the City’s [Affordable Housing Fund](#). The City could also require (or incentivize) that any new development include affordable housing on the Y Lot itself.

To email all City Council members and the Mayor: [use this link](#).

To email an individual City Council member, find their contact info [here](#).

Find out which Ward you live in [here](#).