



May 4, 2026

TO: Ann Arbor City Council
City Administrator

FROM: The Ark

RE: Request to memorialize verbal assurances in the Kline Lot purchase agreement and with all contractors and subcontractors

Dear Mayor Taylor, City Council Members, and Administrator Dohoney,

I write again on behalf of The Ark regarding the Kline Lot. The Ark continues to be committed to working with the City to assure this project will be a “win” for everyone.

On April 6, The Ark was pleased to host a meeting that included the City, the property developer, architect, and Main Street Area Association members. The meeting touched on several areas of concern that The Ark and others in the neighborhood have asked be addressed in the development plans. While requests to include public parking in the project have not met with City support, the City gave verbal assurance at the meeting of the following:

- **Public parking on Ashley Street:** adjacent public street parking along Ashley for oversized tour buses and school buses will be maintained during and post-construction.
- **Access:** current sidewalks, alleys, utility and service access, public and private entrances will be maintained during and post-construction.
- **Alley:** continuous access to the alley for delivery vehicles during and post-construction will be maintained.

Note that these assurances were also supported by Mayor Taylor in my meeting with him on November 7, 2025.

As The Ark has stated in prior meetings and memos, these are **vital needs** that must be maintained in order for The Ark and other businesses in the neighborhood to continue to operate.

The Ark understands that the purchase agreement will be coming before City Council for approval soon and is formally requesting the following:

REQUEST

The Ark requests that the above verbal assurances be memorialized in the purchase agreement prior to approval, and that any contract the City enters into with general or subcontractors include these conditions in it.

Thank you,

Marianne James
Executive Director