

March 22, 2024

To: Missy Stults  
Sustainability and Innovations Director, City of Ann Arbor  
301 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations,

We, the identified residents of the Bryant neighborhood in Ann Arbor, are delighted to submit this letter of support for the City's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for support with implementing a district geothermal system in our neighborhood. This project represents a key and transformational component of our shared work to make the Bryant neighborhood the most sustainable existing neighborhood in the country.

For the last few months, our neighborhood has been engaging with project partners to more deeply understand what opportunities exist to transition to cleaner, healthier, safer, more efficient, and pollution free heating and cooling in our homes. We're excited about the possibilities before us, but one major barrier persists – how will we afford the in-home transition?

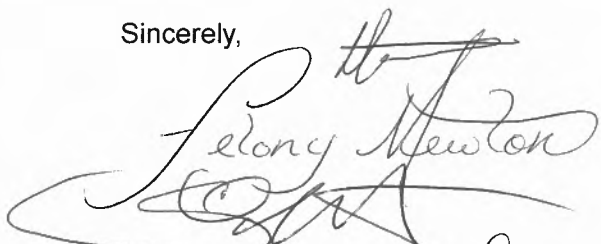
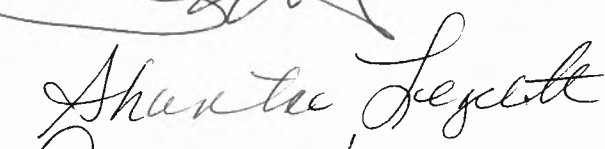

Bryant is rich in culture, history, people and relationships. We have a strong sense of place and incredible people and we are proud of our neighborhood. But we are also a neighborhood that was neglected for many years by the City. We face flooding challenges, indoor and outdoor air pollution, high asthma rates, low tree canopy coverage, high energy burdens, and aging homes. So, while we all want to have safe, healthy, clean and affordable homes, these attributes remain largely out of reach to many of us.

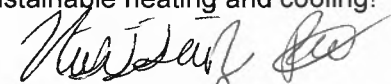
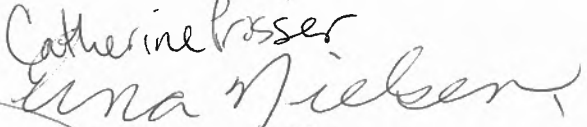
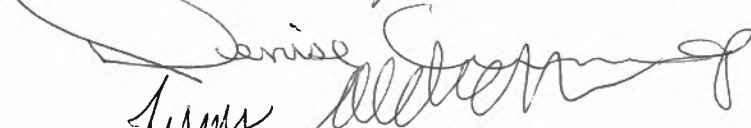
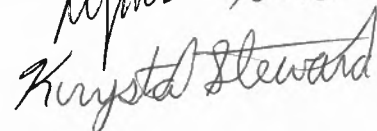
This grant can help remove these existing barriers. By helping us pay the upfront costs needed to transition our appliances from polluting fossil gas to heat pumps, we will be able to improve our indoor air quality and improve our health. By helping us invest in insulation and energy efficiency, you will reduce our monthly energy bills, make our homes more comfortable, and ensure that our soon-to-be launched community geothermal system is able to provide heating and cooling for all of us at more affordable rates.

We know that the climate crisis is real and urgent. We also know that neighborhoods like ours are traditionally left out of discussions about how to reduce climate pollution. However, this project is different – we appreciate being at the table and helping determine what steps are necessary to create the sustainable, healthy and vibrant future (and present) we all deserve.

For this reason and many others, we are sharing our support for the City's application to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and look forward to working with you to support our neighborhood's transition to geothermal for affordable and sustainable heating and cooling!

Sincerely,

  
Leroy Newton  
  
Shantae Sexton  
  
Donna Whitley

  
Catherine Prosser  
  
Anna Nielsen  
  
Denise  
  
Kyrsta Steward