

"The idea that our residential streets would become a permanent parking space for the Frieze dormitory is one that's unacceptable to us," said Christine Crockett, president of the Old Fourth Ward Association. "This is something we take very seriously."

In the neighborhood, parking is already tight. Neighbors don't mind customers and employees of downtown businesses parking in the Old Fourth Ward, Crockett said, because they're gone at night. Some residents, which include a significant amount of students, need on-street parking. They don't have driveways, Crockett said.

The building's staff won't pose a parking problem, said U-M spokeswoman Diane Brown. They can continue to use the Thayer Street parking structure across from the Frieze. A parking garage at the new Palmer Drive complex opened earlier this year. A new structure off Ann Street is under construction.

A community meeting, Kosteva said, may be scheduled to talk with neighbors, who feel blindsided by news of the project.

The neighbors' concerns are legitimate, said 1st Ward Council Member Kim Groome, and the new parking regulations are a good idea. In the end, she said, the new residence hall is good for the city.

"My hope is that the University of Michigan providing more housing will help relieve the pressure that is often felt in our rental market," Groome said. "We have usually a shortage of housing, and it helps to drive up prices."

Over at the First Baptist Church, which is near the Frieze Building, co-Pastor Stacey Simpson Duke expects students will take advantage of some of the church's 25 parking spaces, just as they do now occasionally. But the project is worth the additional inconvenience.

"I'm personally excited about it," Simpson Duke said, "because I think anytime students are present in a neighborhood there's a certain vitality there."

The new building is expected to open in 2008. A price tag has not been announced.

More details about the project, such as its budget, should be announced to the Board of Regents in December. An architect has not been hired yet.

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