YPSILANTI

CHARTER REVIEW
COMMISSION

October, 16 2002

Dear Members of the Ypsilanti Community,

We, your elected members of the 1993 Ypsilanti Charter Revision Commission, recommend that you vote NO on the City Charter Amendment issue on the November 5th ballot.

The current Charter was approved by you in November of 1994 and has served our community very well in all respects.

The Charter serves the City much the same as the Constitution serves the entire Nation. Both are basic documents which provide the guidelines from which other instruments, laws and ordinances are generated to reflect the details necessary to satisfy current requirements. The Charter by design is very general in nature.

On December 16, 1997 your City Council passed a Non-Discrimination Ordinance which outlined protections for citizens of Ypsilanti on the basis of any of 14 characteristics: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, having a disability, familial status, educational association, source of income, height or weight. People who opposed this ordinance because it includes protections on the basis of sexual orientation petitioned to put the question on the ballot. On May 5th, 1998 this ballot proposal failed in a City wide election. Thus our Non-Discrimination Ordinance was upheld .

Having failed in their effort to change our Non-Discrimination Ordinance through a City wide election, this small group of people with a gripe against gay people is now attempting to reach their goal of discrimination by petitioning to amend the base document, our Charter.

It is much the same as a child who doesn't get the response they wished for from one parent and then blind sides the other parent in hope of getting the answer they want. Is there something the opponents to fair treatment of our gay neighbors don't understand about voters when we say "NO?"

Ypsilanti needs to "just say NO" to discrimination one more time. We appeal to everyone to vote NO on the City Charter Amendment issue.

Thank you,

Ann Kettles, Chair

Cheryl Farmer, Peter Fletcher, Joan Kennedy Hughes, Norm Kennedy Bob Kilpatrick, Suzanne Shaw, Deborah Strong for Jerome Strong (deceased), Esther Williams