

I'm Wendy Rahm from the West End. As DNA Land Use Chair, I'm speaking on behalf of the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) to raise concerns about the RiverPlace development proposal and especially the rental properties known as the Douglas apartments.

This *rental* apartment complex has nearly 300 units built in the 80's and 90's – many 3-4 bedroom units suitable for families. *And* it includes units that were specially designed to be ADA. Most importantly, it is a neighborhood of rental units in the “missing middle affordable” housing category, crucial for the city and most especially for the Central City. Today it is a lovely, thriving neighborhood.

A little history. The last time we destroyed entire neighborhoods was in the 1950's and 60's. You recall Albina being replaced by the Colosseum and the thriving Italian-Jewish neighborhood demolished to create the South Auditorium. After the Italian-Jewish neighborhood was lost, history tells us great shame ensued and was talked about for years. I learned about it in a PSU class just a few years ago, so the shame endures. The next threat came in the 1970's, when existing neighborhoods on the east side were threatened with demolition as a result of a Robert Moses-inspired freeway plan. That demolition was fortunately stopped, thanks to public protest and a humane city council.

Since then, we have master planned only industrial sites, large parking lots, or undeveloped properties, but no *existing* neighborhoods, until now.

This threat to an existing neighborhood, the Douglas apartments, is the result of a last second CC2035 spot upzoning of the 8-acre Riverplace site, approved by City Council. I believe City Council was sold a bill of goods when you were convinced to vote to upzone this neighborhood. I want to think that you didn't fully realize the *human cost* involved at that time.

There are many other serious problems with hyper-development of this isolated, “island” waterfront site, including major transportation hurdles with a tripled population. But loss of this valuable rental housing and the displacement of so many people is the most serious of all. The Design Commission cannot address demolition of an existing neighborhood since it doesn't fit any of their approval criteria. Therefore, we come to you today.

A small part of the site could be demolished for development. But I sincerely hope you can revisit your broad-brush decision to upzone and do whatever you can to save the Douglas apartments.

Wendy Rahm
Testimony for City Council, December 4, 2019
Communications: Riverplace
1221 SW 10th Avenue
Portland, OR 97205
wwrahm@aol.com

REFERENCE:

CC2035 Plan

P.42 NEIGHBORHOOD LIVABILITY:

POLICY 2.8 **Family-compatible housing.** Encourage the development of housing projects and units that are compatible with the needs of families with children.

P. 43 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

POLICY 2.10 **Minimize displacement.** Maintain the economic and cultural diversity of established communities in and around the Central City. Utilize investments, incentives and other policy tools to minimize or mitigate involuntary displacement resulting from new development in the Central City and close-in neighborhoods.

From: [Wendy Rahm](#)
To: [Moore-Love, Karla](#)
Cc: [janc988@aol.com](#)
Subject: Re: Communications slots for December 4
Date: Sunday, October 6, 2019 7:42:20 PM

Hi Karla,
Thank you for holding the 2 spots for Wednesday, 9:30 am, December 4.

Could you sign up

1. Campbell, 0320 SW Montgomery Street #416, PDX, 503-504-1254
and me

2. Wendy Rahm, 1221 SW 10th Avenue, #1001, PDX, 503-227-8527

We both will be speaking on Riverplace Master Plan.

Jan will send a confirmation email verifying this as her request.

Thanks.

Wendy Rahm
1221 SW 10th Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

In a message dated 10/4/2019 4:46:30 PM Pacific Standard Time, Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov writes:

Hi Wendy,

I only have 2 spots left on December 4th. Note that Commissioner Hardesty will be absent on Dec. 4th. The rest of the month is booked as well.

Let me know if you would like these spots and yes, please send the names of the speakers.

Each speaker has to send in their own request including their name, address, phone, date they wish to speak (Dec. 4th), and topic. **I can only hold them until October 8th.**

Thank you,

Karla



Karla Moore-Love

Council Clerk | City of Portland

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130, Portland, OR 97204

(503) 823-4086

www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk



From: Wendy Rahm <wwrahm@aol.com>

Sent: Friday, October 4, 2019 4:31 PM

To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: Communications slots for December 4

Hi Karla,

I writing to see if 3 or 4 of the Communications time slots for Wednesday, December 4 might be available. If so, I will provide you the names of the people coming, who would all be speaking about a master plan area called RiverPlace.

If those dates aren't available, could you let me know when the first openings are?

Thank you so much!

Wendy Rahm

Wendy Rahm

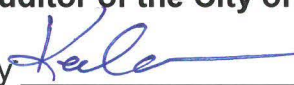
1221 SW 10th Avenue

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Request of Wendy Rahm to address Council regarding the Riverplace Master Plan (Communication)

DEC 04 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed NOV 25 2019
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland
By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		