

Bill Levesque

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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Design Overlay Zone Amendments, Recommended Draft**

On October 9th, 2019, the Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association submitted testimony for the Design Overlay Zone Amendments process. We are concerned that the points made in the testimony have not had an impact on the direction and momentum of the amendment process. Right now we have the opportunity, the obligation to determine Portland's design character for decades to come. If we are negligent in creating design guidelines for the buildings that will actually be built in our neighborhoods, then we will continue to see buildings designed by developers with no apparent regard for creating a cohesive experience. There are already too many examples around the city. The height threshold for the overlay standards to trigger a design review needs to be reduced to 40 feet. Will this require more resources and time for review? Yes. But that is not what should drive our decision today. We only have one chance to get this right. I have attached the document we submitted in 2019. Thank you for the important work you are doing.

Testimony is presented without formatting.