

Thomas Ngo

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

I support DOZA, especially for its impact on BIPOC communities, including immigrants and refugees in East Portland. The impact of DOZA is especially positive to residents and small business owners in the Gateway District in terms of wealth preservation and creation. I grew up as a son to refugees from Vietnam, so we would get our groceries in that area. My mother used to ride MAX from Gateway Transit Center, and my dad was an interpreter at IRCO. Immigrant-owned small businesses are the heart of East Portland. I know that design review, especially a Type III process, can be very expensive, cumbersome, and a very high hurdle to overcome for an immigrant or refugee who may not have the capital or language skills required. I urge City Council to pass the recommended amendments to ensure equitable prosperity for all.

Testimony is presented without formatting.