

Karen Girard

#309645 | May 12, 2021

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

To Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Council: The neighborhood main street centers that exist throughout Portland are part of what makes this city so special. I am supportive of many of DOZA's policy improvements but urge the City to address concerns of many neighborhood small businesses and residents that meaningful engagement of underserved and impacted communities is missing. My neighborhood is one of many that benefitted from the engagement work done by PDX Main Streets to support community-led main street design without increased costs or incompatibility. These positive contributions are a model for Portland to expand and support, not to suppress. I am concerned that excluding development of buildings up to 65-75 feet from design review puts all of Portland's main street centers at serious risk for development that harms the community and could lead to a backlash against increased density and affordable housing. Please provide a formal pathway for community-based planning to be recognized in the process. Thank you, Karen Girard

Testimony is presented without formatting.