

Rachel Davies

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

The Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood Association (CKNA) Board respectfully requests that City Council allow additional time for public engagement on the Design Overlay Zone Amendments (DOZA) using approaches like visual preference surveys and/or open houses. To date, public engagement has been very low, and communities are struggling to understand how DOZA will impact neighborhood main streets. The CKNA Board also requests that DOZA include standards for main streets that are aligned to impact and context, which are currently missing from the proposals. Main Street Standards would increase density sensitively without dominating or damaging local identity. This approach would help engender better support for density, better fit with context, and be a bridge to allow new density without compromising distinct neighborhood characteristics. As our city grows and changes, it is vital that City Council adopt a cohesive vision for maintaining the distinct neighborhood characteristics for which Portland is well known. The Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood flanks the Central Eastside area and lies along a portion of inner SE Powell Boulevard that is ripe for major redevelopment. The spine of our neighborhood, SE Gladstone Street, is a historic streetcar line with thriving commercial nodes along its length between SE 26th Ave and SE 42nd Ave. We border a portion of the burgeoning commercial area along Foster Road. Creston-Kenilworth is also a vulnerable neighborhood: home to several affordable housing developments, with near 50% of school children in the neighborhood eligible for free or reduced lunch at school. The CKNA Board fears that under the current proposal, our neighborhood will be vulnerable to major redevelopment that will not trigger design review, nor include community-led planning that would help protect our neighborhood's character. Lack of protections in the design process would contribute to ongoing racial and spatial injustices in which poorer neighborhoods are vulnerable to poorly constructed buildings that erase existing neighborhood character. DOZA, along with main street standards, can help all the neighborhoods in our city grow to provide more housing, greater affordability, and greater equity. Thank you for your consideration, Rachel Davies, Chairperson on behalf of the Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood Association Board

Testimony is presented without formatting.