

Margaret Shannon

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

Please vote yes to include the proposed amendment for ground floor active use in Arbor Lodge. Since I moved here from Chicago in 1980, much to my sadness, I have witnessed the gradual erosion of a vibrant walkable Arbor Lodge community. I didn't need a car. On Denver, Greeley, Lombard, and Interstate, I used to be able to get my needs met by utilizing storefronts and smaller box stores (even Fred Meyer was smaller, and had some small businesses within it.) The old communities in my Chicago neighborhood have always been walkable and still are. The denser and poorer the populous, the more local walkable services that are needed. Once communities become less walkable, people lose opportunities to connect and risk becoming disconnected groups of people living side by side. And especially with tall apartments, we become truly "silo-ed". Without little storefronts, we deny entrepreneurs a chance for success, and the neighbors, a chance to connect via these establishments. We need to make builders accountable to the standards. We've let them get away with a minimal greenspace and parking space standard; we need to consider a livability standard.

Testimony is presented without formatting.