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City Council finishes public hearing on Better Housing by Design proposals – will consider amendments on November 21

News Article

City Council finished hearing public testimony on the Better Housing by Design Recommended Draft on Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

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The Nov. 6 public hearing started at 2 p.m. and lasted until 5 p.m., and 42 people testified. Much of the testimony was on draft amendments requested by City commissioners. A lot of testimony was about whether or not to limit development bonuses for affordable housing based on transit access. There was also testimony regarding parking exemptions for affordable housing, and a broad range of perspectives were shared on proposals related to historic preservation.

If you missed this hearing, you can view a video of the hearing [here](#). Community members have contributed over 250 pieces of written or verbal testimony on the BHD proposals.

Written testimony will continue to be accepted through November 21, 2019. You can provide testimony on the broader Recommended Draft proposals, as well as on the draft amendments. Please see below for information on how to submit testimony.

Next Up – Amendments

City Council will discuss and vote on potential amendments to the Recommended Draft on Nov. 21, 2019, starting at 3:45 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. These amendments will include those previously requested by commissioners (see below), as well as any new amendments that may emerge from commissioners' consideration of recent public testimony. Any revisions to the list of draft amendments will be posted online prior to the Nov. 21 session, which the public is welcome to attend, but it will not be a public hearing.

These potential BHD amendments include:

- Amendments to the Deeper Housing Affordability Bonus to provide options for affordable ownership housing.
- Expanded exemptions from minimum parking requirements for projects providing affordable housing.
- Limitations on using development bonuses on sites where historic buildings have been demolished in the multi-dwelling and mixed-use zones.
- Prohibitions on using development bonuses on sites more than a 1,500-foot walking distance of frequent-service transit.
- Disallowing 100-foot building height in the RM4 zone in historic districts.
- Requirements for large sites to include indoor common areas, such as community or recreation rooms.
- Zone changes in the King's Hill Historic District to reduce allowed building scale.

How to Testify

Written testimony will continue to be accepted through November 21, 2019 (you must include your name and address):

Use the Map App:

www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/mapapp

Select **Better Housing by Design** and click on the "Testify" button.

Testifying in the Map App is as easy as sending an email. And once you press "submit," you can see your testimony in the Testimony Reader in real time. You can also read other people's testimony.

By U.S. Mail:

City Council

Better Housing by Design Testimony

1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 130

Portland, Oregon 97204