

Comments on Housing Needs Analysis at Portland City Council, 12-6-23

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

My name is Doug Klotz. I am a member of Portland: Neighbors Welcome, and my wife and I are homeowners in Southeast Portland at 35th and Harrison. We support the PNW plan for an Inner Eastside For All (IE4A), which will bring more housing to our well-served, “high opportunity” neighborhood. More housing would improve on existing “character” here. Though we are 4 blocks from any arterial, there is an 18-unit apartment building from the 1920s and several 2 and 3-plexes near us. We walk and bike to work, shopping and health care, and we welcome the new homes, which will allow more people to share our neighborhood.

BPS says that, while Portland indeed has enough “capacity” for its Housing Needs, much of that capacity is in places like East Portland where new housing would bring a high risk of displacement for the low-income residents there.

On the other hand, the IE4A plan would shift housing growth to the Inner Eastside. This upzoning will allow high land prices to be split between many apartment homes, making more housing feasible. This new housing will be close-in, will avoid displacement, and will reduce pressure on East Portland, stabilizing prices there.

I urge you to direct Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to include this plan in the Housing Production Strategy (HPS), which they will be working on in the coming months.

Thank you.

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