

Mayor and Commissioners,

Today, I encourage you to both approve the Housing Needs Analysis and support Portland: Neighbors Welcome's proposal to include Inner Eastside for All as a key component of the Housing Production Strategy.

When my wife decided to return to school full time, we were able to continue living in inner northeast Portland by moving to an older apartment building on a quiet, side street in Irvington.

Nestled among the tall trees and single-family homes we found that the cheaper rents had attracted a community that reflected the diversity of Portland. Young families and retirees, service workers and immigrants, who were able to catch the bus to work, walk their kids to school, and enjoy the charms that make our neighborhoods special.

Unfortunately, the majority of zoning in inner Portland prohibits apartment buildings like our old home from being built. Instead it forces members of our community to choose between living on noisy, polluted streets or at the edge of our city that lack complete sidewalks, street trees, and easy access to grocery stores and parks.

However, by directing the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to include an upzone of the inner eastside of Portland in the Housing Production Strategy, you can help create new communities that Portlanders of all races and incomes can call home.

Thank you,

Luke Norman