

Ellen Burr
1123 SE Harney St
Portland, OR 97202

9/12/2012 Presentation to Council

My name is Ellen Burr. I'm a resident of the Sellwood Moreland neighborhood and the land use chair for SMILE, the Sellwood Moreland Improvement League.

Good morning, Mayor Adams, commissioners Leonard, Fritz, Saltzman, and Fish. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning.

11 years ago, I moved from Los Angeles to Portland because I had always longed to live in a neighborhood. LA doesn't really have those. I'm very concerned about this trend of large apt buildings with no parking. Because zoning code allows you to build a certain way with no parking, no greenspace and vegetation, and minimal setbacks, that doesn't mean there is no negative impact to the neighborhood.

Portland neighborhoods are unique, not one size fits all. The Sellwood development site is the back side of a commercial block. The front and one side of the 4 story building would tower over the single family homes across the street. These buildings are massive compared to the scale of our residential neighborhoods. What are the developers required to do to help ensure their tenants use public transportation and do not own cars they will be parking on the street?

Our public transportation service has been cut. Our neighborhood lost the Harold Street stop on the Portland Milwaukie light rail. Can Trimet guarantee that our access will be restored and improved? This isn't just about no parking. This isn't about just one building in each neighborhood. Much of Tacoma Street, a gateway to our community, is zoned for this type of overscaled development. Yesterday, I received word another project is in the works on Tacoma.

These buildings infringe on the privacy of their neighbors, block the daylight from homes, yards and gardens, and put the neighbors living up against a wall.

There are creative design solutions. Vary the roof line to give a sense of movement and relief to the 45 ft allowable height, and allow more light.

Create a compound of smaller buildings so there is gathering space between them, and a feeling of community. In the front of Sellwood's Library building, the upper floors are stair-stepped to transition down to the street. As you walk by you don't realize this building is 4 stories tall.

Development is more effective when it's planned for future success - 10 years, 20 years, 50 years out. 10.4% of Portland's population is over 65 and all of us baby boomers are coming behind them for the next 18 years. Build housing which serves families, the aging population and others who need accessible housing? There's so much opportunity for innovation and creativity. The Portland we love and care about did not happen by accident

Portland supports public involvement. We have educated, thoughtful citizens who voice the concerns of our neighborhoods. Our concerns on this issue are not heard because what the developers do is by right and to code. Unless you live in a Design District, you have no say regarding the design of our buildings.

Change will require sacrifice. We do support increased density, less cars and more public transportation And we also support responsible community-involved growth. If we wait four years for our Comprehensive Plan to be completed, we will see more of these buildings go up and permanently damage the fabric and character of our beloved neighborhoods.

Some of you must live in these neighborhoods. Work with us to open the conversation between the developers and the citizens who truly make these neighborhoods the places where we love to live.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Ellen Burr [smilelanduse@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 7:23 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Sept 12 presentation to city council

Good morning Karla,

I am a representative from Friends for Responsible Growth contacting you regarding our presentation to City Council on September 12, 2012. We have 5 slots semi reserved from 9:30 on. I'd like slot #3 if possible. I will be addressing responsible growth and how it fits into the neighborhood context in relation to the topic of development of large apartment buildings with no parking throughout the inner east side. I will address design and livability.

date: September 12, 2012

name: Ellen Burr

phone: 503-754-3868

address: 1123 SE Harney St.

Portland, OR 97202

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Regards,

Ellen Burr

Ellen Burr, Land Use Chair

Sellwood Moreland Improvement League

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Ellen Burr, Land Use Chair
Sellwood Moreland Improvement League

8/9/2012

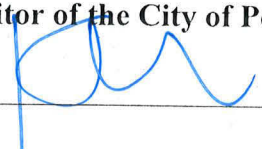
Request of Ellen Burr to address Council regarding responsible growth and how it fits into the neighborhood (Communication)

SEP 12 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed SEP 07 2012

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		