

9/30/14

Dear Committee Members,

I have been following the west quadrant area proposal for some time now and believed that the committee was committed to honoring and protecting the historical buildings that grace the area between I405 and the river. So it was with horror that I read the final recommendations which promote a high tower vision of this area. When we first moved to Portland 10 years ago, we lived in the Pearl and when 3 years' ago we moved to the Eliot Tower downtown it was with some trepidation as we worried about being in the "inner city". Well, we have found the "inner city" utterly delightful with it's variety of historic buildings that provide the most wonderful atmosphere to this area. Not only do the variety of low building heights allow a walker to quickly know where they are by viewing a church steeple from blocks away but they honor the history of this area. And given the number of cloudy days Portland experiences during the year, low building heights allow for more light to be reflected onto streets and sidewalks making walking and biking safer. Have you noticed that the new skyscraper going up across from Nordstrom's has dramatically shaded the two streets parallel to it.

I have been to cities with a density of skyscrapers and while they are impressive their density creates a dark and stuffy atmosphere. Portland's West Quadrant is a delight and it's historical center is reflective of many European towns who honor their historical centers. Portland planners need to honor and protect our history as well.

Sincerely,

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