

To: Planning and Sustainability Commission
Chair Andre Baugh

From: Barbara Ross
2034 NE 40th #217
Portland, OR 97212
503 281-9345
brross@exchangenet.net

Re: Urban Renewal Amendments:
Hearing, Dec. 9, 2014

My Name is Barbara Ross and I am testifying as an individual, and not on behalf of any organization.

Many of the recommended amendments to the Urban Renewal Amendments are positive and reflect careful detailed work by the PDC staff and the Advisory committee.

I am troubled by the possibility that the affordable housing goals in the North Macadam District will be reduced. Portland's Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy stipulates that housing units in new development areas mirror the income profile of residents of the whole city. This has not happened to date, and if you follow the recommendations before you it will not happen in the future. We are told that out of the 4,000 units that have been built to date, only 209 are affordable to families at less than 60 percent of MFI.

As you study the charts, graphs and statistics it is easy to forget that these are real people who have no place to live that fits their pay check.

I would like to share a picture of one formerly homeless mother of two children. She managed to get a job in the food service industry, but her hours are irregular and it's a long commute to work. She gets food stamps and welfare helps pay for childcare. She pays 750 dollars a month for rent. Last month she missed some days because of illness and her take home pay was only \$601. She figures she can cover her rent on January first, if she gets more hours and saves all her pay checks, using tips for laundry and non food essentials. She does not know how she will pay for her power bill. She has to keep her phone working so she can keep in contact with her supervisor at work to know what her assigned hours will be.

I believe his woman will make it because of her grit and determination, but it would take only one mishap to land her back on the streets, trying to get herself and her children into some kind of shelter.

We must remember that development of housing in Urban renewal districts are subsidized by dollars that otherwise would go to other taxing jurisdictions. The city should not ignore the requirement that construction of housing units should meet the needs of all income groups.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Barbara Ross