

Dear Commissioners:

This letter concerns rezoning of properties along the 1400 block of SE Stark. All the properties from 1403 to 1421 are currently R1. I support rezoning the property from 1403-1415 as CM1 that would allow the lowest commercial density and limit the height to 35 feet. This property is adjacent to several residences who will be adversely affected by any other zoning. The building at 1421 SE Stark was originally zoned as a garage and is a separate property that has the same owner as the 1403-1415 property. The 1421 should remain at its current R1 zoning. The owner would like to change the zoning so the non-conforming use currently in place disappears and all the property (1403-1421) can be sold together allowing a developer to build a larger building that would not be compatible with the current neighborhood. The neighborhood strongly opposes this planning direction.

Briefly, we are a neighborhood under siege. The Washington High School development began as a retail lower/residential upper. Without any notification of the neighborhood, the R1 zoning was changed to commercial. Then, again without neighborhood input, an 850-seat music venue with 200 shows per year and minimal onsite parking was created. Catholic Charities is apparently building an affordable housing complex in the park adjacent to St. Francis Church. The influx of people and services will greatly impact our neighborhood. Again, we were given no opportunity to comment. The property at 14th and Oak that is owned by the same owner as the 1403-1421 SE Stark owner has sold and rumor has it that some sort of apartment building will be built there. Again, we as neighbors who will live with all these changes day in and day out are left in the dark.

I support responsible, sustainable development. The Buckman experienced the infill projects of the 1960's-1970's many of which are now rat holes. Let's not make that mistake again. Let's be responsible. Let's create neighborhoods where families can live and thrive for years to come. Listen to the neighbors!!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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