

Here is my statement for the public testimony:

I am a homeowner at NE 10TH and Knott St in Irvington and am concerned about the size, appearance, and impact to the area's livability due to the proposed apartment at NE 7th and Russell. The size (proposed 6 stories), amount of parking designated, and appearance of the building do not fit with the neighborhood. The developer may have been (technically) grandfathered under a wholly inappropriate (outdated) zoning for the area. Right next to the space is a nice-looking condo building that should be used as an example of denser housing that can still work in the area. Traffic near that intersection already backs up. I can't imagine what it will be like when that large building goes in. They are also planning to include little parking relative to the building size. While it's fun to idealize the idea of few people owning cars, it's not realistic. The tenants and their guests will overwhelm the area in terms of parking.

Further, if a substantial building is added, it would make sense to include neighborhood conveniences like retail that are commonplace to Portland's livability goals/design. A cafe and/or some sort of retail would make so much sense in that scale of building. But that's not the primary concern.

I took a picture of a new building that's going up across from the N Williams New Seasons for comparison (see attached). It's only 4 stories and the fourth story is set back, making it far less imposing. Considering N. Williams is a major street and NE 7th is a neighborhood thoroughfare, I think it's an interesting comparison. The N Williams 4 story is the maximum size I can imagine in the space on NE 7th and Russell. Please look at a 6 story building in the area and try to imagine it on the proposed development site. Please do drive by and imagine the impact to the historic neighborhood.

I hesitate to go on a tangent, but the impact of removing the 2nd car lane on the N. Williams corridor has wreaked havoc on traffic. I think it's great that we want to be a bike-friendly city, but to remove a whole lane from a BUSY 2 lane road is a horrible idea and the impact was immediate. Try working your way through that chaos at 5:45 on a weekday. Cyclists already had a designated bike line.

I apologize for the negative email but wanted to make sure neighborhood sentiment was understood and considered.

Please consider these thoughts. First and foremost, I hope you and your leadership peers can agree to require revisions to the proposed NE 7th and Russell building, making it a smaller and more aesthetically pleasing design.

Sincerely,
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