

Good Afternoon,

I am emailing to support the motion or movement to downzone my neighborhood from the current R5 to a more liveable R7.

I have been a resident in the South Burlingame neighborhood on SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue for nearly 24 years. Over this time, I have seen many changes in the demographics of the neighborhood as older residents have either retired, or passed along, and new families have moved into the neighborhood. I have also seen a marked increase in the amount of vehicle traffic through the neighborhood by drivers anxious to avoid the long waits on Terwilliger Boulevard, southbound as they wait for the lights. Cars and trucks routinely speed through the neighborhood at above speed limit to try and save a few minutes of wait time, often rapidly traveling through intersections or running stop signs. This endangers kids, pedestrians, animals, etc. within the neighborhood. Despite this increased traffic, the neighborhood remains a wonderful place to live with nice historic homes, great neighbors, large older trees, parks, etc. I love living in this neighborhood, and I know that people who move into the area agree that it is great.

My college degree is in architecture, so I have a high appreciation for design, structures and milieu of what makes a neighborhood great. One of the reasons that I originally moved into the neighborhood was due to the great older homes, as well as its location. This is unfortunately changing, and not for the better. I understand that Portland is growing, and the limitations of urban growth boundaries, but I contend that historic neighborhoods deserve to be preserved in order to preserve the essential character of the city. For this reason, I am adamantly opposed to the destruction of existing historic homes in favor of erecting huge, out of scale new homes just to make more money off of the lot. In the proposal that was submitted from our neighborhood committee, one can see clearly that newer construction in the neighborhood is totally out of scale to other homes. If this trend is allowed to continue, the character of the neighborhood will be eliminated and additional traffic and congestion will result. As is also presented in the proposal, many of the existing streets lack sidewalks, or are so narrow, that passage is already difficult. Most of the recent new homes built in the neighborhood have also taken down mature trees and made the streets less shaded and attractive. A better alternative it seems would be to encourage updating, or sensitive remodeling of existing homes in the neighborhood to maintain the character and scale. There are several examples of this happening around my home, without damaging the character of the house itself, nor the surrounding lots.

I appreciate your time in reading this email, I don't have the technical terms to submit to you, but I strongly urge the downzoning from R5 to R7 in order to preserve the wonderful neighborhood that I love to call home. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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