

TO: psc@portland

Comprehensive Plan Testimony-Argay Neighborhood

My Wife, Gloria Highland and Myself, Thomas E. Highland are residents of the Argay Neighborhood, in East Portland. Our address is:

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I am among those residents who are requesting that all the undeveloped or vacant R-3 zoned land in the Argay Neighborhood be reclassified to R-5 or R-7 single-family residential, and the proposed Mixed Employment areas (Change Numbers 287, 288, 289 located at the SE corner of NE 122nd and Shaver and 290, located at the SW corner of NE 147th and Sandy Blvd.) also be reclassified to R-5 or R-7 single-family. Also, I support the City's similar change #688 along NE 148th Avenue north of I-84.

My Wife and Myself, believe that the essential nature of the Argay Neighborhood should not be further eroded, as happened in the past, when the large number of apartments were approved and built along Sandy Boulevard between approximately 125th to 148th. Planning for these apartments was inadequate at best, in that, there was not enough vehicular parking required to be planned, causing large numbers of vehicles to be parked along streets that cause traffic congestion and unsightly, potentially dangerous situations. Shaver Elementary particularly, and the Parkrose School System were unfavorably impacted when the large number of children that resided in these apartments were introduced to these schools, causing increased class sizes that were not adequately planned for. The crime rate in the adjacent neighborhoods increased after the apartments were completed. We had vehicles broken into, damaged and articles stolen on two different occasions.

The Argay Neighborhood has supported more than it's share of affordable housing for the greater Portland Area. Land use planning for the area should be allowed to reflect the ability of current and future residents to enjoy the area as it was when current residents purchased properties in the neighborhood. The Argay Neighborhood has been considered one of the more attractive neighborhoods in the area, where pride of ownership is readily apparent in the well maintained, attractive properties and where it has attracted purchasers who have wished to raise their children and send them to school. Every city needs an attractive area that is not overburdened with urban development to the point where crime and adverse livability issues degrade neighborhoods to the point where citizens feel compelled to move to other locations and the neighborhoods ultimately fall into disrepair.

Gloria and I, want to keep Argay the family friendly neighborhood it has been since we arrived in 1972 and continue to enjoy. We raised our three children here and they have gone on to successful careers. Not too many neighborhoods can point to the success of the area and the school system that helped Air Force General Susan Helms on her career path through the Air Force Academy and on to become an Astronaut. The school

system and neighborhood attracted her father, an Air Force Officer Advisor to the Oregon Air National Guard, to the area, after being assigned to Portland Airbase. The neighborhood has also had numerous other success stories, in a variety of career fields, attributable to the area and the school system. Let the future plan reflect the success of the past, in supporting the residential nature of the area without undue emphasis on increased population densities and business and industrial development.

Thank you for your attention to this testimony,

Sincerely;

Thomas E. and Gloria M. Highland
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