

Our neighborhood, Humboldt, is suffering from the whole scale demolition of single family homes.

This includes the clear cutting of established trees on these properties by developers who only pay a few hundred dollars into the "Tree Fund", which does not plant replacement trees in our neighborhood, and results in a net loss of trees and habitat for birds. This in a city which prides itself on valuing trees!

In a neighborhood composed of one and two story homes, developers are cramming in three story duplexes, with two-car garages on the alley and two ADUs built over the garages.

Our back yards have helped to knit our community together, and by removing back yards and replacing them with interior courtyards obscured by buildings, the people are losing a valuable resource of communicating and sharing.

Often, the new structure blocks all of the sunlight from existing houses, devaluing the property and making privacy impossible for the people living there.

The design of these "developer" style houses is nothing like the other houses in the area, since they are built to plans from generic corporations, and the developers are often from out of state, having no interest in what happens here after they pocket the cash.

Which brings me to another point, that the price of the new house is usually twice the assessed value of the existing homes here. The demographics are forcing citizens who have lived here, paying taxes and contributing to the city, out of their family homes. They can't afford the higher rents.

When the small, 100 year-old house next to ours was bought last year, and we received a notice from the City of a proposed lot division and demolition followed by construction of a three-story duplex such as described above, many of the neighbors as well as the Humboldt Neighborhood Association wrote objections. Our objections were completely ignored, and the BDS approved the division and the unwanted development.

The City must start listening to the people who live here and keep Portland a place of charming neighborhoods where people of modest means can live. The race to destroy what is good and build rubbish is exemplified by the concrete monster being built next to the John Palmer House at N. Mississippi and Skidmore. Even being on the National Historic Register as a treasured building can't save us from the rapacious developers with no respect for our heritage, or the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

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