

Petitioning Portland OR Planning and Sustainability Commission This petition will be delivered to: Portland OR Planning and Sustainability Commission

# Remove the restrictive and punitive Pleasant Valley "V" and "P" overlays from our property at 5557 SE Jenne Ln



Joyce Montgomery

Portland, OR

My husband and I are experiencing overwhelming difficulties with the city of Portland. We do not live in the city of Portland, so it is mind boggling to us that they control our every move or decision on our personally owned property in unincorporated Multnomah County.

We are not sure when, but Portland at some time placed what is "called" the Pleasant Valley "V" Overlay on approximately 90% of our property. There is also a "P" overlay on what we think is a small section of our property, but we haven't been able to get anyone to confirm just where this area is, or exactly why either of these overlays were put on our property. We have also not been told exactly when they were placed on our property, or why we were never notified of this massive change in how we would be allowed to utilize our property going forward.

We do know that we have been cited for zoning violations for doing what any normal citizen would consider to be their right to do on their own property. These include terracing a gentle slope on the side yard of our home to provide two flat areas, the lower one in which we built a patio/fire pit and the upper one in which we planned to plant a small orchard, berry plants and a grape arbor.

We also built a series of "cowboy steps" on our lower property as a place to train my horses. These consist of three steps approximately one to two feet high by about eighteen feet square with the top "stair" with about a three foot drop on one side, for the horses to jump up to and down from.

We have now been informed by the city of Portland, that because of the overlays they have placed on our property we will have to remove these area's and put them both back to there original condition plus plant many native species of trees bushes and ground cover. There were no native trees bushes or ground cover in these areas before we improved them for our personal enjoyment and safety, but that doesn't matter. Our property has been continually used for farming for at least 50 years before I purchased it in 1989. The previous owner raised sheep and I have used it to raise and train horses since two years before I purchased it.

We are supposed to be grandfathered in for our horse breeding and training, but only for those things we had already completed before they put these overlays with all their restrictions on us. For anything we had merely planned to do in the future, they are denying us the right to complete our long term goals , such as building a training area to prepare our horses to be safely ridden on the Springwater corridor (which borders our property) or fencing our back corner which goes down to Johnson creek, with an illegal trail off the springwater corridor that allows homeless transients and others (including children) to trespass on our property as they make their way to Johnson creek, which I believe would be considered an attractive nuisance, and if anyone were to be injured while trespassing on our property we would be held liable, but the city of Portland won't allow us to put up a fence.

We also won't be allowed to plant an orchard, berry bushes or grape arbor, I'm not entirely sure if we can even plant a garden, as the restrictions on our property only allow us to plant "native "species".

We still don't know what all the restrictions on our property entail, when we first learned of the overlays three years ago we thought they only applied to building, and we wanted them to be removed so that we would be able to build an indoor horse arena in the future. We were told at that time that Portland would be redoing it's comprehensive plan in about six months and that we could apply to have this restrictive zoning removed (we still don't know the reason it was put on in the first place). It was about three years until we received an email from Chistina Scarzello letting us know it was time to submit our testimony to have the overlay zoning removed. We have sent in our testimony, but have no idea if or when it will be looked at or a decision made, and in the meantime, we have learned through receiving a notice of violations some of the other restrictions that have been placed on our property.

Every inch of our property is used to grow pasture to feed our horses (excluding where the buildings and driveways are) we even use the area around our house to graze horses. We are very confused about this extremely restrictive zoning and the fact that they say we are grandfathered in on the one hand, but aren't allowed to complete our long range plans and goals on the other. We are also told that everything we do must be done by hand, even though we have always used our tractor in maintaining our property and should be grandfathered in to continue using it as it is a vital piece of equipment to maintain our horses and land.

To add to the confusion and worry, where my house is located and where my barn is located, I would not be allowed to build today. I don't know what would happen if either building were destroyed, but I don't believe I would be allowed to replace them.

We would appreciate any help or advice you could provide us with, and we beg you to please write or email the Portland Planning and Sustainability commission with testimony backing our request to have this restrictive and punitive overlay zoning removed from our property. Please email Portland Planning and Sustainability <u>PSC@portlandoregon.gov</u> include the word testimony and support us in demanding our property rights not be held hostage. Please also sign our petition to send a message that peoples rights can not simply be taken away by any government entity that has their own agenda for land that doesn't belong to them. Steve and Joyce Montgomery 5557 SE Jenne Ln Portland OR 97236 503-661-3157

Letter to

Portland OR Planning and Sustainability Commission Remove the restrictive and punitive Pleasant Valley "V" and "P" overlays from our property at 5557 SE Jenne Ln

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