

From: Eric OConnor [<mailto:eric@magnetichealthfactory.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission
Subject: Feedback on proposed zoning density increases for Buckman

Hello,

My name is Eric O'Connor and I'm a 10-year resident of the Buckman neighborhood. I'm also an active participant in the Buckman Community Association, and a former Board member.

I'm writing to offer my input on the proposed zoning density increases along, I believe, Morrison and Belmont Streets. I'm concerned about these proposals, and the impact they will have on the neighborhood. My concerns do not stem from an anti-growth position. I have lived in urban areas for all of my adult life, and consider myself a "city person" through and through. If anything, I've been pleased to see the growth in Portland in the relatively short time I've been here. But in recent years, that growth seems to have reached a point where it no longer feels organic to me. It feels instead like the city is simply trying to shoehorn in as many people as possible.

Like most Portlanders, I appreciate the historical efforts to enforce an urban growth boundary and limit sprawl. But at some point there is a limit on how many people Portland proper will hold. This limit exists across multiple dimensions: physical, cultural, etc. Exactly where we choose to set that limit is a decision that all Portlanders must come to collectively. Right now, it feels like the the Portland Development Commission is having a disproportionate say in that decision-making process. I don't hear a lot of Buckman residents, for example, complaining that our neighborhood needs more large-scale apartment buildings with little to no street parking.

The pace of such development has been proceeding at what many feel is a breakneck pace. Perhaps it's time to stay put at or near the current level, catch our breath, and just live in this "new" Portland for a while?

Thanks,
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