

From: Katie Petersen [mailto:katiebentley22@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 5:11 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: PSC Residential Zones Testimony

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing to voice my concern with the rate at which Portland's neighborhoods are being changed (and it's not for the better). We are seeing classic homes demolished, only to be replaced with multiple units that lack any sort of character, and that stick out like a sore thumb in our neighborhoods.

The city loves to say that they're doing this to create affordable housing for our citizens, but what they're actually doing is crowding schools, streets, and neighborhoods to the brim (there is nothing affordable about the homes they're building). I live off of 48th and SE Division. Since I've moved to this house (I grew up in Portland in another part of SE) two MASSIVE condo complex have gone in, with another (future home of the Green Zebra) on the way. NO parking has been added, forcing over crowding of our streets. Division street is always backed up for blocks, which in turn funnels traffic down our side streets. Drivers use this as a "short cut" and end up speeding down our street, where many kids are usually playing. It is beyond dangerous.

I'm SO sick of watching the Portland I grew up in be handed over to big development companies. It's like the City leaders have no regard for what actually makes (or MADE) Portland unique. We are supposed to be trying to hold on to that, not let our town become some hell hole made up of row homes, and condos. We are trying to squeeze so many homes onto a single lot that we're having to essentially clear cut the lot to make room for a bunch of tiny, poorly constructed homes. Goodbye yards, and goodbye trees.

Portland was once a city that prided itself on being environmentally conscious. So why is it that we are letting developers tear down existing homes that could easily be converted into multi-unit dwellings (if affordable housing really is at the heart of the matter), in order to build four crappy homes in it's place? The Greenest home is an existing home. I can't imagine how many perfectly good homes are sitting in a landfill now. It is also concerning that we are putting so many homes in that we have no place for rainwater to soak into the ground. It is causing major runoff issues.

What you're allowing developers to do to this city is unconscionable. It has to stop. At the rate it's going we are going to LOSE the Portland we all love.

There has been a big "win" for the Eastmoreland neighborhood to reverse the zoning that was designated R5, back to R7. I'm happy for the folks that live in this neighborhood, but can't help but find it all too coincidental that Charlie Hales lives there. He has to understand that other home owners outside of Eastmoreland feel the same way about our neighborhoods. We'd like them to remain as they are. Homes with yards and trees. We don't want to be crammed house to house. That is not the Portland I grew up knowing.

Please, I ask that rezoning Portland be reconsidered. We are growing too quickly. And sadly these growing pains are coming at a cost of charming old homes, and family neighborhoods disappearing.

Please, Please, Please don't do this to Portland.
Thank you for your time, and for listening to my rant.

Sincerely,
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