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To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>  
Subject: PSC Residential Zones Testimony

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7100  
Portland, Oregon 97201

March 25, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am very much opposed to the zoning in my neighborhood being changed from R5 to R2.5 for multiple reasons. Some months back I noticed that a perfectly good home a few blocks from me across the street to the north from the Loyola retreat center was being destroyed and I wondered what was happening. Subsequently two huge houses replaced it. I went over there today to look at them. They tower over the neighboring houses. Nearby houses lose privacy in their backyards. Two houses means twice as many people and cars, but there is now only room for 1 car to park in front of the 2 houses because of the driveways. Those houses have virtually no backyard for children to play in. Certainly no room for having a vegetable garden and they block out sunlight anyway. People who have landscaping near them with plants that require sunlight could find they have to put in shade plants. More people on the street means more traffic, more noise. There is less possibility of enough ground to grow trees. Cities tend to be "heat islands," ie the building and concrete absorb more energy when it is hot and are slow to release it at night, making it hotter for residents. Then people will run their air-conditioning more because of it.

I find it interesting that while some want to cut the required size of lots in Richmond from 5000 sq ft to 2500, the Oregonian reports that our mayor who lives in the not far away "affluent enclave" of Eastmoreland wants it changed from 5000 to 7000 there. I happen to be a family physician who bought my house in Richmond 21 years ago. I could have bought a house in Eastmoreland, in which case I would still be working to pay for it. Instead, I consciously chose to buy a more modest home where I am. That has enabled me to retire early and now I volunteer my time doing free patient care through venues such as Compassion Connect and the Good News Community Health Center. I don't think downgrading the quality of life in my neighborhood is any way for Portland to thank me for my benevolence.

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