

From: Gina deLeo [<mailto:deleo.gina@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 4:58 PM
To: Hales, Mayor <mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Planning and Sustainability Commission- resident opinion

Dear Mayor Hales,

Dear Amanda,

As a resident of SE Portland, I am sending you this letter in hopes that opinions like mine will help you make decisions regarding planning in Portland.

After years of living at SE 35th and Woodward in the Clinton neighborhood, my family and I moved to SE 53rd and Division in the outer Mt. Tabor neighborhood. Part of the reason for this move was the feeling that we did not recognize our neighborhood anymore, as it became a crowded tourist destination partly brought on by new buildings the PDC encouraged. Now, with the proposed changes to a greater area of SE Portland, our new neighborhood could be following suit.

As far as the new planning of SE Portland and Portland in general, cramming our neighborhoods with multiple housing will not lead to livability. Already, the increase in traffic and parking issues have created havoc in our neighborhoods. The Clinton/ Division area has become a misery of navigating cars, pedestrians and bicyclists at all hours.

The commission has proposed rezoning traditional lots to include multi-family housing and multiple buildings. This results in loss of green space (yards and gardens). Greenspaces are integral to both human and animal mental and physical well-being. The City does not require developers to leave greenspaces or designate money for parks within the area being developed. The loss of light to existing homes when tall buildings are built also impacts our neighborhood for the worse.

Most of the housing that developers are putting up are built quickly and cheaply. Very little thought or care seems to go into the design and building materials, and yet developers are given tax breaks to build this 'infill' housing even as they bulldoze perfectly good homes that were built with local old growth lumber.

Our schools are overcrowded already, streets cannot handle the extra traffic (and having triple buses traveling up and down Division St can only exacerbate this). Where is the infrastructure for the large numbers of people to be crowded in to the inner city?

Is this the Portland that we want to live in and plan toward? Breaking the inner neighborhoods down can only lead to unsustainable crowding. No matter how much developers build in popular downtowns across the country, the prices never decrease, but the livability does. We have a chance to keep Portland's character and not become another crowded city full of generic buildings in a concrete and glass wasteland.

Thank you,

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