

Mark Germann

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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Design Overlay Zone Amendments, Recommended Draft**

I moved to Portland 2 years ago from the East Coast. The ease of walking and bicycling the neighborhoods is what impressed me most about this area as there is only a few isolated places like this in Massachusetts. I really like how some apartment developers have integrated ground floor shops with apartments above, it makes for a very vibrant community situation. Areas like Alberta and Williams are great examples of this type of integration of the new apartments with the older single family homes and making the neighborhood more active with shops that are primarily "mom and pop" type of places. I am not opposed to the creation of apartment complexes in established neighborhoods as long as there are controls in place to protect the existing character of the neighborhood while helping to revive areas that have been economically stagnant for years.

Testimony is presented without formatting.