

Steve Dotterer

#329859 | June 10, 2021

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

I urge the City Council to adopt some additional amendments the Design Overlay Zone recommended draft. In particular, I urge Council to include: -Amendment 3: The identification Main Street standards for the Inner Pattern area is an important first step in a city which has been developed over a long period of time. It also is an important statement that there is not one design approach which is appropriate for an entire city of nearly 700,000 people. -Amendment 4: Giving the organizations which build housing with a high percentage of affordable units more flexibility in design review (and extending the benefit to a wider array of funding types) is a statement of the Council's support for greater affordability. It is critical that this amendment be combined with amendment 5 to increase the benefit to affordable projects. -Amendment 5: Lowering the threshold for design review from 75 to 55 feet (and exempting affordable projects): This amendment recognizes that the change in scale which is happening in Portland is dramatic and should be done with care and thoughtfulness. This amendment will likely create a more varied streetscape where the buildings are of less uniform height. This is a good thing in a city with many long and straight streets. Amendment 8: Directive for BPS to create design statements: This amendment is critical if the city is to avoid a deadening uniformity. Portland is a large city developed (and annexed) in different eras. While we should strive for equity in service levels, we should allow for a variety of characters reflective of the past and supportive of a future that allows further new characters to develop. Thanks for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony is presented without formatting.