



## EXHIBIT B

### City of Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

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Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners  
Portland City Hall  
1220 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97205

The Portland Historic Landmarks Commission is excited to forward our recommendation that the Portland City council adopt the new South Portland Historic District Design Guidelines as the City's approval criteria for alterations, additions, and new construction projects in one of our oldest historic places.

The South Portland Historic District has been impacted over time by major transportation projects such as I-5, the Ross Island Bridge and its ramps, and SW Naito Parkway. However, it still contains a concentration of resources that represent an era in history, 1876-1926, not found in this density elsewhere in Portland. A set of unique historic guidelines were written for the Lair Hill Conservation District (locally listed in 1977) in 1980. The South Portland Historic District, encompassing a larger area than the earlier Conservation District, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Since then, the City has used the old Conservation District guidelines in part of the district, and general historic guidelines in the rest of the district.

The two-year process to develop a new set of guidelines for the District has been able to address some "holes" in the criteria. For instance, the District's history as a vibrant neighborhood of multi-ethnic immigrants was discussed in the nomination but not in the old guidelines. We are glad to see the new guidelines provide context and background as well as criteria that will help tell this story over time. The new guidelines will also allow for needed growth and improvements to the historic area that are sensitive to the character-defining features of the District. We commend staff from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability as well as from the Bureau of Development Services for their thoughtful work and their level of engagement with stakeholders in the neighborhood to create these guidelines.

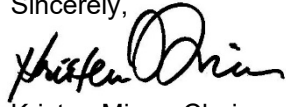
The Landmarks Commission did seek a few Amendments both in the wording of a few of the guidelines and in the associated images, background, and explanatory materials in the document. With these changes, we are pleased to offer our strong recommendation for adoption of the new South Portland Historic District Design Guidelines.

The City's investment in creating new guidelines is part of a strategy adopted in the Comprehensive Plan and reaffirmed in DOZA as well as in the new Historic Resources Code Project. That strategy is to affirm that there is a Citywide benefit to recognizing the unique feel and "DNA" of various areas of the city, historic or not. Comprehensive Plan goals and policies that are met by these new guidelines include:


- Policy 4.2 Community identity. Encourage the development of character-giving design features that are responsive to place and the cultures of communities.
- Policy 4.49 Resolution of conflicts in historic districts. Adopt and periodically update design guidelines for unique historic districts. Refine base zoning in historic districts to take into account the character of the historic resources in the district.
- Policy 4.55 Cultural and social significance. Encourage awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity and the social significance of both beautiful and ordinary historic places and their roles in enhancing community identity and sense of place.

We seek your support in more guidelines projects in the coming years, especially for Conservation Districts and Historic Districts currently without their own guidelines.

Sincerely,



Kristen Minor, Chair



Matthew Roman



Andrew Smith



Kimberly Moreland