

# Ricky von Hulha

**#332527 | September 22, 2023**

## **Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the 2045 Portland Housing Needs Analysis, Proposed Draft**

I am a resident of inner Northeast Portland. Despite our collective anxiety about this city's future, we still have a vibrant and diverse community here. However, our neighborhoods face several pressing challenges, including a growing need for affordable housing. To address this, I am advocating for the inclusion of low-rise mixed-use buildings in our city's housing plans. Portland is grappling with an affordable housing crisis. Families are struggling to find homes they can afford, and this issue affects not only residents like me but also our neighbors and friends. Low-rise mixed-use buildings can play a crucial role in addressing this crisis. One of the strengths of low-rise mixed-use buildings is their ability to blend into the existing fabric of our community. By allowing such developments, we can create spaces that cater to the diverse needs of our residents, including affordable housing units and spaces for local businesses. I understand the importance of preserving the unique character of our neighborhoods. Low-rise mixed-use buildings can be designed to reflect the aesthetics and charm that make our neighborhood special while still providing much-needed housing options. Additionally, having more small-scale commercial space creates the potential for small businesses to thrive and become important places for the community. We are a city of small businesses; they make our neighborhoods special. I urge the City Council to seriously consider allowing low-rise mixed-use buildings in the inner Eastside as part of our city's housing plans. This step aligns with our goals of addressing the affordable housing crisis, preserving the character of our neighborhoods, and fostering community. It's an opportunity to create a more inclusive and vibrant community that benefits all residents, present and future. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working together to make our city an even better place to live for everyone.

Testimony is presented without formatting.