

Dear Members of the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission:

I recently read in the Oregonian and Mercury about the prospect of reducing the housing goals for low-income people when changes to the Urban renewal districts are considered by the council.

Portland has a long history of working for the needs of homeless and low income persons. I understand that funding low-income housing is expensive, but in the end, it comes down to priorities. I hope you will support continuing to add apartments to house the lowest income groups as a critical component in our over-all effort to reduce homelessness. Please do not give in to the efforts to reduce these goals.

On a personal level, my wife and I are working with our church and the Village Support Network to help two families make the transition from homelessness to stable living. Both families are paying what seems like exorbitant rents, \$750 and \$1,000, considering the slumlord conditions they are living in. Drug dealing, trash, noise, swamp-like entrances, broken door locks, faucets, heaters, shades, windows are among the many challenges they face, but they bravely persist and are making a home for their families.

Again, thanks for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

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