

From: Fernando Carrillo [mailto:cunboto@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 4:49 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Opposition to N. Kerby Ave/N. Borthwick Ave Zoning Change

We oppose the proposed zoning change from R5 to R2.5 in a two-block area of N. Borthwick Avenue and N. Kerby Avenue, between N. Rosa Parks Way and N. Dekum Street. We met with city officials to discuss the ramifications to our neighborhood if your committee ratifies this rezoning, and we were told that if the zoning changes from R5 to R2.5, then residents would not be allowed to provide input to developers or new development in this zone. This is an unacceptable consequence that could dramatically affect the quality of life of all residents who live on these two streets. Zoning ordinances should be embraced to protect the integrity of neighborhoods and the quality of life of the people who live in these areas. They should not be adopted to allow developers to profit from indiscriminate land use.

We've lived on Kerby Avenue for 18 years. We are fortunate to count several of our neighbors as close friends. As neighbors, we've shared tools, meals, and celebrated holidays together. These bonds were formed, and are maintained, through trust, open communication, and our willingness to sit down and work through challenges. This sense of goodwill would be lost forever, if we, as residents, lose our ability to have a say in shaping our neighborhood as a result of changes in zoning.

We are not against density. In fact, we worked closely with our next-door neighbors when they converted their double-car garage into an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). However, we are against a practice that has become too common in our city: throughout Portland, developers have torn down single-family homes and built cheap dwellings—with two to eight units apiece without parking—which consume resources and further contribute to congestion and environmental pollution. Something like that happening on our street would be detrimental and disruptive, not to mention unfair. It is well known that communities of color, immigrants, and the poor have historically inhabited North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods. Traditionally, these communities have lacked the clout to resist arbitrary proposals such as this one that impact the quality of life in their neighborhood. As longtime residents of North Portland, we have witnessed the assault of indiscriminate development and its consequence in our neighborhood.

In closing, we strongly urge you not to approve the zoning change from R5 to R2.5 proposed for the two blocks of N. Borthwick Avenue and N. Kerby Avenue between N. Rosa Parks Way and N. Dekum Street. If you would like to discuss this issue further please do not hesitate to contact us.

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