

Please do not force the character of our neighborhoods of single family homes, to change. Laurelhurst, my home, is over one hundred years old, and a wonderful place for families.

My children always said that they had a small town childhood in a big city. There is a sense of continuity. People tend to stay in their homes for many years, In 2020 I will have owned my house for 50 years, and two of my children own homes in the neighborhood. We have four generations who have gone to Laurelhurst Grade School, and three generations who have graduated from Grant High School. My family is not unusual. There are many multi generational families like mine, who love our quiet, tree lined streets and the feeling of the community.

Do not think that Laurelhurst has no diversity. Our immediate neighbors include Asian Americans, African Americans, and our family is Hispanic. On my block, there are at least four of the world's major religions represented.

I think that the impression that some people have, that neighborhoods like ours are exclusionary and elitist, are very unfortunate and unfair.

To force multi-family dwellings, without adequate parking, to be built in an established district, is counter-productive. Given the fact that we have no vacant lots, is the intent to tear down existing buildings so that these multi-family units may be built? And given the cost of real estate here, these would not be units affordable to low income Portland citizens.

I am very conscious of the need for affordable housing. It is one of the most pressing needs in our city. But the answer is not to destroy the unique character of historic areas like Laurelhurst, Mount Tabor, Irvington, Rose City and other city neighborhoods. They are one of the reasons that Portland is the liveable, vital place that it is.

As elected representatives of the people of Oregon, yours is the solemn responsibility to make decisions that affect our state for decades to come. Please do so thoughtfully and fairly.

Thank you,

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