



Jennifer Munson <jmy@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: District 1 Listening Tour Comments

Jeff Levine <jlevine@portlandmaine.gov>
 To: Jennifer Munson <jmy@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Feb 27, 2018 at 10:35 AM

For the Munjoy Hill folder.

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From: **Carle Henry** <cdhenry3@yahoo.com>
 Date: Mon, Feb 26, 2018 at 10:21 PM
 Subject: District 1 Listening Tour Comments
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Good evening,

Tonight, at the East End School, I attended, with my wife, a listening session re the future of Munjoy Hill. Thank you for hosting the session.

While there was a lot of emotion from some folks tonight, I hope you agree that most people voiced, to applause, one common theme:

- don't affect us personally....from the first gentleman who spoke about his elderly relatives to the last woman who was new to the neighborhood, this moratorium is negatively affecting good and honest neighbors who are not activists (like MHNO) or 'outside developers'....they are citizens with hopes and dreams that are being negatively impacted due to an overreaction to a few of the repeat, loud neighborhood offenders (can you say 'soul of portland?') by the council

As Jay Norris freely admitted tonight,

1. this all stemmed from the "vortex"/efforts to stop the Portland Company development (by him and a few people); and
2. despite many words to the opposite from elected folks to citizens tonight, he boldly announced that the East End will become a historical designated area 'it's gonna happen'

I'm afraid some on the council are being duped by the MHNO yet again. Since their failed attempt to stop the Portland Company development, many ex Soul of Portland (then Portland for Responsible Development) took over the MHNO. Under the veil of representing the hill, they audaciously and incorrectly speak on the behalf of the hill to the press, to the council and to anyone who will listen but they actually only carry the agenda of a few loud, emotional citizens. Please do not be fooled any longer.

Most of us have lived here a long time or moved here because of the diversity. Don't mess with it. As the first gentleman said tonight, we are getting squeezed from both ends. Taxes go up and now we are inhibited from selling in a free market.

If MHNO has its way, we will be under a historical designation soon. Which, as reported across the country and in the New York Times and other award winning papers, causes prices to go up, taxes to hike, long term locals to be priced out, diversity to decline, affordable housing to fall and a new class of upper level white folks to take over. Don't take it from me. Do the research - - it's been reported and documented by city-after-city across the country. While the audience pushing for the Historical labelling purport to support diversity, affordable housing, etc., they are either too ignorant to know they are causing the opposite effect or they know exactly what they are doing. Either way, do not allow this any longer.

Finally, and as I wrote prior to the moratorium being put into place, we have enough restrictions and process today. As the last speaker highlighted tonight, 9 pages of requirements exist today. The city is doing its job just fine.

As for those who are upset by a building that they do not find attractive or their resentment for people making \$, they (and by default) you cannot define and dictate taste.

Truly, the City Council cannot take up a cause by a group of 10 people in any one neighborhood. We need you to focus on greater matters that affect the entire population and city (e.g., crime, education, homeless, business, etc.) Poor MHNO and friends don't like some of the new architecture - boo hoo. Do we live in a city or not? Our community is just fine. Please don't waste another tax \$ chasing phantom issues by activist bullies and people with too much time on their hands.

Thank you and see you at the next event.

Carle Henry
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