

86 Newbury Street

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Posted in group: **Planning Board**

Dear Board Members,

I understand and support the desire for Portland to grow. I understand that growth brings change to our life here on the peninsula. What I don't see, and it concerns me deeply, is a cohesive vision for the development of the East End. What am I seeing? New condos, new hotels, new office space, new retail and restaurant spaces, and new parking garages. What I don't see is a creative, thoughtful and progressive plan on how to transport these new residents and employees on and off the peninsula. It is my belief that more parking garages are not the answer. The peninsula is finite with only several access points to bring people on and off the peninsula. Where is the plan for handling traffic - not parking but traffic? I would like to see the building development slow down and speed up the public transportation development. Endless parking garages are not a solution; they exacerbate the problem of traffic.

86 Newbury Street - refuse to grant the zoning height waiver and do not demolish the affordable housing on the street. I think it's disgraceful to cater to the wealthy and show such disregard for working class residents and their needs for affordable housing. All the service jobs in these new offices, hotels, condos, shops, and restaurants will be staffed by people making the minimum wage or slightly more. Where will they live?

Thank you.

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