

September 24, 2021

Re: West Portland Town Center Plan

Dear members of the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission:

It has been a pleasure to be part of the West Portland Town Center Community Advisory Group. As the executive director of Community Partners for Affordable Housing, I know that well planned, safe and stable neighborhoods are critical for our residents to succeed. This area is important to CPAH – we see that there are many opportunities and possibilities for increasing affordable housing and for stabilizing and supporting the community. And many of the things that CPAH cares about for our residents are included in the West Portland Town Center Plan (WPTC Plan).

This plan could not be more timely; there is incredible pressure to gentrify this community. We urge you to support those specific strategies in the plan that will increase the supply of regulated affordable housing, including increasing land available for multifamily housing and inclusionary housing rules. We also ask to support the parts of the plan that focus on improved work opportunities, green space, a community center, and positive health outcomes.

Most importantly, we ask you to ensure that the residents who currently live in this culturally diverse and rich community have every opportunity to stay. We urge the city to track displacement on a household level, with the ultimate goal of no resident having to leave because of increased housing costs. We also request the formal adoption of a minimum threshold of 30% of all new housing be affordable to people at 60% of median income and below. Again, this will require thoughtful and inclusive redevelopment and development efforts using the tools described in this plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rachael Duke, Executive Director