



Stroudwater Village Association Board of Trustees
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1945 Congress Street

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To: hcd@portlandmaine.gov

Cc: Stroudwater Village Association Board of Trustees <stroudwatervillageassociation@gmail.com>

Nell,

My family (we're a family of four with two children) built a home in the Stroudwater Village area just last year. We built here because we loved the feel and nature of the community, with its historic homes, and small and close knit neighborhoods.

We jumped through hoops ensuring we followed all the codes and regulations set forth by the city of Portland. At times we questioned why we were building in Portland because there were so many darn restrictions.

The answer, of course, is that the result of those strict codes and regulations is what makes Portland such a wonderful place to live. Clearly, there have been smart and forward looking people involved in making codes and regulations for Portland, and the result is a city that has beauty with function.

I understand the city wants to rewrite some of the codes and regulations to allow mega commercial development at 1945 Congress St. Seriously? Isn't this the area of town where we had to jump through all the code-and-regulation hoops in order to live within the context of this beautiful village? Why in the world would you change the codes to allow mega commercial development in a village where the codes result in a beautiful livable city? And if you do change the codes, shouldn't it be done in the same smart and forward looking context that the people before you did – to ensure you keep Portland beautiful, functional, and livable?

We should not rezone this beautiful residential village to allow commercial development until we have a suitable master plan and we know what impact the change of codes will have on this area. It's not smart or strategic or forward looking – all the things that make Portland the great city it is.

Betsy Smith
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