

Andy Zimmerman
3365 Holiday Drive S
Salem, OR 97302

July 21, 2019

Olivia Glantz
Community Development Department
City of Salem
555 Liberty St. NE, Room 205

Re: SUB-ADJ 19-02

Dear Ms. Glantz:

I am writing to share concerns regarding the proposed Wren Heights housing development on Salem Heights Avenue S (SUB-ADJ 19-02).

The narrow, 20-foot-wide road contains no shoulders and no sidewalks, and although the city will require the developer to improve Salem Heights along its frontage, it doesn't address any of the safety issues on the nearby steep, view-obstructed hills. For the most part, traffic, like water, follows the path of least resistance. Residents of Wren Heights likely will use Salem Heights, since it has a traffic light at its intersection with Liberty Road S, to access Commercial Street instead of wending through the Candalaria neighborhood. Adding more people and adding at least 345 vehicle trips per day increase safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists.

If you're been by the proposed development, you might have noticed the tree canopy on the property as well as the surrounding neighborhood. Allowing the development to remove nearly 60 percent of the trees will dramatically change the complexion of the area. Newly planted trees won't make up for the loss of the older ones for several decades.

I understand that development of the Wren Heights property is inevitable; housing is in short order in Salem. But it's also possible to do so by crafting a plan that preserves more trees as well as make improvements on Salem Heights with safety in mind for current and future residents. Please take the time to ensure this project reflects the character of the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Andy Zimmerman
3365 Holiday Drive S
Salem, OR 97302