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Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 1:44 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Further testimony on SUB-ADJ19-02

Given that my testimony (on Monday, July 22, 2019) was cut short toward its end by Mayor Bennett, I would like to submit the entire written testimony now, to the City Recorder, in regard to the proposed "Wren Heights" development on Salem Heights Avenue South.

Testimony Regarding the Proposed "Wren Heights" Development

I grew up on Salem Heights Avenue, across the street from the proposed development. I lived there with my parents from 1951 to 1973. Six years ago, I moved back to my parents' home, and have lived there since that time. I think it is safe to say that, with Dr. Harvey, we are two people in the room who have the most long-standing relationship with this neighborhood.

In regard to the proposed development, I share all the concerns of my neighbors regarding the safety--
I should rather say the danger--of this suburban street, as well as an urgent regard for the historic trees and bucolic environment of this acreage.

Salem Heights has always been a dangerous street, with speeding cars between the two hills, few street signs, little or no traffic enforcement, poor lighting, narrow lanes, and no sidewalks or bike lanes.

It is astonishing to me that no deaths have occurred, at least to my knowledge. I know that many animals have died, and my parents and I have buried some of them. More houses will mean increased traffic and more peril on an already unsafe street.

The other issue is the landscape itself. The old cherry orchard is largely abandoned, but the White Oaks, Douglas Firs, lilacs, and blackberries still exist, some for over 100 years. So do the deer, nocturnal skunks and raccoons, opossums, and birds, so rare in today's urbanized environments.

For 22 years I lived in Cambridge Meadows, in southeast Salem, one of several developments of large, single-family homes: big houses on small lots, with no nearby green space. Our nineteenth-century ancestors were wiser than we are. They created Bush's Pasture Park, Willson Park, and Englewood Park, among others, in the heart of downtown Salem. They planned for neighborhood parks that would give children and parents places to play, relax, lie in the grass, experience nature.

If the Harvey Family Trust were to donate even one quarter of the present acreage--just two acres--to the City

of Salem for the sole and express purpose of creating a neighborhood park, they would preserve the oldest trees and at least some of the wildlife, and this configuration, adjacent to Salem Heights, would, I believe, tend to reduce traffic and the risks associated with this narrow street. Parents and potential buyers would flock to buy houses in this development, within walking distance of Candalaria Elementary School, still one of the top-rated public grade schools in Salem. Donation of the land would certainly provide a tax incentive for the owners, as well as a naming opportunity that would recognize the original investment made by Harmon and Jane Harvey, as well as a legacy for the Harvey family and their descendants. I also recall Thomas Kay, Sr., a successful Salem-area businessman and a man of principle, who gave back to his community in ways large and small. He taught vacation Bible school at Westminster United Presbyterian Church when my mother and I were members there. I knew Mr. Kay as my teacher, and I believe I know what he would advise now, in this matter.

I don't have children, but if I had, I believe I would want what you and other parents naturally want for your children and grandchildren: a safe and happy home, good education, available medical care, and places to play that will give children the exercise, fun, and first-hand relationship with nature that they truly need for healthy growth and a stable adult life. Thank you.