

Olivia Glantz

From: Bill Dixon <bill.r.dixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 12:09 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: New Testimony for the Written Record -- Case #SUB-ADJ19-02, Wren Heights

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem, 97302
Subject: New Testimony for the Written Record -- Case #SUB-ADJ19-02, Wren Heights

I would like to respond to two comments by City Council members after my testimony to the Council's public hearing on Monday, July 22, regarding the proposed Wren Heights housing development.

Councilor Kaser asked about the time when a video that I showed was shot. The video was taken at 6:30 pm on Thursday, July 18.

Councilor Lewis pointed out that people chose to buy homes on Salem Heights despite the risk posed by its current substandard condition. He did not request a reply at that time, however I would like to offer additional comment along that line of thinking.

First, many people who live on Salem Heights are long-time residents who bought their homes when the road had less traffic demand than it does now and will face in the future if Wren Heights is built.

Second, the timing of residents' home purchases does not affect the City's obligation to provide public infrastructure that is adequate to serve current requirements as well as new development -- especially in an area that the city believes is appropriate for housing infill. In the case of Salem Heights, the City's staff has acknowledged that it is not adequate as a collector street under current conditions, let alone those imposed by the extra demand from Wren Heights.

The City and the Council should be focused on ensuring safe, efficient roadways, not locking residents into the conditions that existed when they moved into a neighborhood. To think otherwise would mean, for example, that West Salem residents should endure traffic gridlock forever just because they decided to live in an area that the city views as a prime location for population growth. This is clearly not an appropriate goal for West Salem or any other part of the city.

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