

Olivia Dias

From: Marissa Theve <marissatheve@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Olivia Dias
Cc: Elliott Lapinel
Subject: Request for Comments - Case No. CPC-NPC-ZC-SPR-ADJ-DR20-03 for 905 & 925 Cottage St NE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi again Olivia,
Please find my partner and my comments concerning Case No. CPC-NPC-ZC-SPR-ADJ-DR20-03 below.
Thanks very much and have a great weekend!
Marissa

Hello!

My partner Elliott Lapinel and I (Marissa Theve) are writing in support of case number CPC-NPC-ZC-SPR-ADJ-DR20-03 for 905 & 925 Cottage St NE. As homeowners in Grant neighborhood who frequent the area on dog walks and trips to the farmers market, we enjoy the sights and sounds of the proposed area more than weekly. We fully support a project that would help extend access to this area to folks who could otherwise not afford it. We accept that living in a city means sharing our neighborhood resources with people who might have different needs, including residential on-street parking. The city's population is not going to decrease in the foreseeable future. So ignoring the lack of [affordable] housing in defense of places for cars to park will only further exacerbate the problem.

The Right Thing To Do

Elliott and I see the project proposal as a ladder out of transitional or hidden homelessness in a time of nationwide mass evictions as well as a way to help work towards racial equity. It is the right thing to do for today and for the city's future. Salem and the state of Oregon as a whole has a horrific record with racial injustice, and we see this project as a step toward helping to remedy otherwise racist institutions. NIMBYism, local parking concerns, and undefined historical values are not acceptable reasons to disallow this necessary and desperately needed development. It is ironic for us to see many Black Lives Matter chalking and signs along Cottage street and yet hear all the opposition to this project. This is an opportunity to show that we want people with less resources and opportunity to feel welcome in our city.

There Is Room

Elliott and I strive to walk the talk and feel it is time for our neighbors follow suit. We are back yard neighbors with a suit of 9 cottage court homes. We embody YIMBY (yes, in my back yard) for dense housing. We support these institutions, whether or not they match our aesthetic ideals. There is room.

An A-Historical Building

Multi-family housing has a long-standing, architecturally distinguished history in Grant Neighborhood, see page 31 of *The Houses of Grant Neighborhood* document here: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/houses-of-grant-neighborhood.pdf>

The document also acknowledges that the Evergreen Church (built 1928, so around 90 years old) is the only example of gothic architecture in the neighborhood, making it an a-historic example.

Now Is The Time To Act

The divide between the 'haves and have-nots', which was already growing is increasing even more rapidly due to the financial side-effects of the pandemic. Now is the time to act. Please help make this neighborhood a place where we truly welcome everyone and do not put up protective walls around what happens to exist today. This project is the right thing to and is exactly what the community needs right now.

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Marissa Theve
Pronouns: she/her/hers