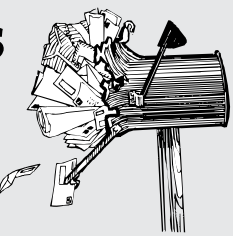


Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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South Waterfront condominiums primarily housing for the wealthy

Regarding "South Waterfront finally gets affordable housing at six-story Gray's Landing," by Lee Perlman, *The Post*, March 2013.

Lee Perlman's article about so-called "affordable housing" finally coming to the South Waterfront is a perfect example of how warped and out of touch the thinking is at City Hall.

Anyone who thinks affordable housing involves building 206 apartments for \$50 million is so far out of touch with reality that they shouldn't be allowed to hold public office!

The Portland city fathers have long been drooling at the lip over the prospect of developing the South Waterfront, even though the development which has so far occurred has all but ruined the historic Lair Hill neighborhood as well as John's Landing, as a result of the increase in traffic along the Macadam [Avenue] corridor.

To say nothing of the absurd property tax valuations that have resulted from having \$400-per-square-foot condominiums built right down the street and which are now used as comparables when the tax assessor does their "trend-

ing" analysis.

For the uninitiated, residential housing in a high-rise or mid-rise structure is a bad idea from the start as these types of buildings are easily the most expensive form of housing to build or maintain.

The only benefactor is the local government treasury, which just loves to cram as many over-priced condos onto the smallest parcel of land possible. For the rest of us, all this type of development has done is ruin many of the most livable, human-scale neighborhoods in the city.

When all is said and done the entire inner city district is going to house nothing but the wealthy in their sequestered, over-priced high-rise condominiums, with a token smattering of poor folks who are on display in "affordable housing" projects such as the project being developed by REACH Community Development at the South Waterfront

Carson Horton
Beaverton

No smoking rule ignored by management at Grays Landing

It appears that the No Smoking Addendum at Grays Landing (property) has been re-written by the management, who along with many if not most of the employees are smokers.

I am one of several people who are allergic to smoke and we are being subjected to second-hand smoke every time upon entering the building.

New policy, now posted on [the] bulletin board, says no smoking inside [the] building. Sidewalk smoking is being allowed.

Many tenants are smoking on Grays Landing property, in violation of smoking policy, and this is being overlooked by management.

There is no place [smoking is allowed].

On the sidewalks, the 10 feet from doors and windows allowance applies, with balconies or open windows on the second floor [vulnerable to second-hand smoke].

On the REACH side of the building, signs are posted by all doors, "No Smoking Within 10 Feet."

As a walker, I have noticed that there are no other apartments or condos in South Waterfront that have residents smoking on the sidewalks around their building.

I realize that lack of education (thus low income) plays a part in this situation at Grays Landing.

[Managers] have made a point of stating that they do not want Grays Landing to look like a low-rent building, but that is exactly what they are creating: a six-story trailer park atmosphere.

P.S. Yes, I know that there are some very nice respectful people living in mobile home parks.

Jack Devine
South Waterfront

Thirty-five dollar arts tax stupid and frustrating

To all who voted to give elementary kids special art classes, what were you thinking? We already pay enough taxes and to think that you voted for each of us to pay \$35 per year (or more if we don't pay on time or if we pay online).

This [is] a lot of money out of our household budget and it is easy to see why people are upset. When most of us were in school, we did art with our

elementary school teachers and we did just fine so why can't little kids [do] the same today?

This tax is one of the most stupid and frustrating things that Portland voters have done in a long time. What were [they] thinking?

Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen
Multnomah Village

Victim of theft urges thief to donate time to charity

I've never written a letter to a newspaper, but I had a situation occur in Multnomah that is bothersome. I grew up nearby walking through the Village on my way to school for years.

I still go back regularly with my sisters and make purchases from local merchants to support them. About a month ago I took my sister and her grandchildren to the new yogurt shop.

I had just purchased an expensive bottle of spices from Indigo Traders. I set this bottle down in order to pay for their yogurt and when I turned around to pick it up it was gone!

I looked all over and it was just gone. One, this is upsetting, because it took me about two hours of work to pay for this spice. Second, it happened in little Multnomah Village, where locals trust each other.


I am shocked, hurt and hope that whoever took this uses it well and considers giving two hours of their time to someone else. Give two hours to the Neighborhood House or seniors who need it.

Anonymous via email

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