

June 10, 2018

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100  
Portland, OR 97201



RE: Manufactured Dwelling Park Project

Dear Commissioners:

Elders in Action encourages you to adopt the Manufactured Dwelling Park Project. This new zoning designation will contribute to the stability and longevity of 56 manufactured housing parks citywide, which provide affordable homes for over 3,000 Portland households. As many as 12 of these parks (with a total of 761 spaces) are designated for individuals aged 55 and older. A high percentage of the remaining parks have a high percentage of older adults as well.

Manufactured housing parks are home to older adults, people living with disabilities, veterans, people of color, immigrants, and families with young children. In many cases, these are the only homes accessible and affordable to those who would otherwise be priced out of the city or made homeless by rising housing costs. In other cases, manufactured homes provide an opportunity for Portlanders to escape homelessness and find stable housing.

Elders in Action receives over 100 calls each month from low income older adults who are either being priced out of their homes or have received no cause evictions. Wait lists for affordable housing communities, as you know, are 2 to 10 years long and even cues for temporary shelters are formidable. For seniors of 70 to 90 years of age whose incomes come solely from Social Security of less than \$1,000 a month – relocation can be harrowing if not impossible.

As property values and redevelopment pressures continue to climb, it becomes all the more urgent to ensure long-term stability for all of our manufactured housing parks. By strictly limiting the allowed land uses where existing parks are located, this proposal will help ensure that thousands of affordable homes are preserved for current and future residents. In doing so, the Manufactured Dwelling Park Project helps to implement the City's anti-displacement commitments under the new Comprehensive Plan – including Policy 5.37, which specifically refers to the preservation of mobile home parks.

We believe lower-income households of any age should always be able to find stable, affordable homes in Portland. Adopting the Manufactured Dwelling Park Project will help achieve this vision. We thank you in advance for supporting this essential affordable housing preservation measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JoAnn Herrigel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

JoAnn Herrigel  
Deputy Director