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**From :** Anya Neher <anyabn@yahoo.com> Fri, May 02, 2014 02:46 PM  
**Subject :** Please remember the people who already live here  
**To :** brandon goldman <brandon.goldman@ashland.or.us>  
**Reply To :** Anya Neher <anyabn@yahoo.com>

Dear Ashland City Council Members,

I live at 237 Clay Street and would be one of the city residents adversely affected by yet another big block of high-density housing in this section of town already containing more high-density housing than most. If the Normal Street plan must go ahead, PLEASE do not let the third story be "slipped in" (after it was taken out) before the vote. Please do not cave to one developer. Your constituents are Ashland residents who live and work here every day and who vote for you, not one (almost certainly non-local) developer.

This new development, even limited to two stories, is not only going to take away beautiful fields which add immensely to Ashland's beauty -- not to mention habitat for local wildlife, including the Barn Owls that hunt over these fields in the evening -- but it's going to impact this end of town tremendously in terms of traffic, noise, and all the usual effects of over-congestion.

Again, I urge you to give MORE WEIGHT to the wishes of city residents who actually live in this area already than to a developer who will come and go. Many of us chose to live in this area of town precisely because it had pockets of quiet beauty... the fields. They are worth their weight in gold and are a big part of what makes Ashland so appealing. If we are going to keep giving them up to more and more housing, let's at least minimize the effects of hundreds of more people and cars, not to mention the aesthetic effect of more wall-to-wall housing.

Please don't choose the fleeting effects of developer money over the long-term well-being of city residents who already have more high density housing in their midst than most Ashlanders. For every person you hear from, there are many more of us who care and who whose quality of life would be compromised by the packed-in feeling of more and more people on all sides. For many of us, the expansive views and the beauty and serenity of nearby fields are a huge part of what living in Ashland is all about.

Don't let Ashland become just another "every place else." Allowing more and more huge, high-density projects to go ahead, and to get away with transgressing the normal standards for height is exactly the kind of step that takes us all further away from the town we love and closer to some crowded, traffic-choked suburbia we don't want to be.

Please vote for the higher, greater good and not just for expediency or letting another developer get his/her/their way. They do not have to live here.

Sincerely,  
Anya Neher  
237 Clay St.  
Ashland, OR