

June 29, 2017

Re: LDR Amendments

Honorable Mayor Rick Kriseman and Members of City Council,



HONNA  
P.O. Box 76324  
St. Petersburg, FL 33734  
[www.honna.org](http://www.honna.org)

For several years now, the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association has been concerned with the number of tear-downs in our neighborhood, and the size, mass and scale of much of the new construction. We are not opposed to new development, but many of these boxy new homes are massive in scale – setback to setback - and do not fit into the context of the block where they are located. Furthermore, they are oftentimes replacing perfectly good housing stock.

Our neighborhood is diverse and we want to maintain that diversity. We have homes and small apartments that fit the needs of young people just starting out and retirees who want to downsize, as well as larger homes suited to growing families.

At our most recent quarterly meeting, upwards of 75 people attended a program presented by the Neighborhood Review Committee. Although I was out of town for that meeting, I understand that all but one of those who spoke raised questions about what they see as over-building. They were *not* supportive of the City's recommended base FAR of .50 with .20 in optional bonuses. In fact, they consistently expressed the opinion that only a number in the .30 - .40 range would make a difference.

Many of the attendees were deeply alarmed about drainage and flooding that they experience during heavy rains. Streets flood and in some cases, water rises above the curb. They believe that building to the lot lines and covering the lot with hardscape can only exacerbate this issue. They would like to see a lower Building Coverage ratio and a lower Impervious Surface ratio than the City is proposing to help prevent the flooding and drainage issues that are affecting our entire City.

With this in mind, the Association supports:

1. A base FAR between .30 and .40, with design bonuses in the .10 to .20 range
2. A Building Coverage ratio of .45
3. An Impervious Surface ratio of .50.

Surely we can lower the City's recommended ratios so that historic neighborhoods such as ours can be protected from incompatible new development, and increased drainage and flooding issues.

Please address our concerns.

Peter Motzenbecker, President  
Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association

cc. Elizabeth Abernethy