

I write this letter to oppose the new regulations. First I have reviewed several of the letters in support of the regulations. All of the letters that I have read are templates which were signed off by random residents. My check of their addresses through GOOGLE maps revealed that none of them had alley lots behind their houses. Yet they want to dictate what my alley should look like.

The support letters merely extoll the virtue of affordable housing in the city, and if alley lots can do the good, they are all for it. But these writers do not live behind the alley that would be affected by the regulations. The city can surely find a better way to create affordable housing and not transmogrify existing neighborhoods like ours into something that we are not.

I live behind alley lots. I am opposed to any development. It will increase congestion in the alley and neighborhood. While the lots are not always cut and kept pristine, they do provide open spaces in the back of our houses for walking dogs, occasional encounters with neighbors, not to mention providing an eco diversity for plants and pollinating insects.

The one or two or three small houses that someone could build would not compensate the neighborhood for the loss of these benefits. Also, under current regulations, every house must have running water and sewer. The lots in my neighborhood do not have this hookup. I think I speak for everyone when I say that no one in the city would accept the government's using our tax dollars to install a large water and sewer infrastructure in the alley so a low level developer can build a small house or two. If these houses are to be built, let the builder bear the full cost of water and sewer infrastructure.

Submitted on 10/23/2025 by:

Philip Baten

1930 Quincy St. NE