

URGENT ACTION NEEDED: STOP CONSTRUCTION OF POLLUTANT WAREHOUSE IN PARKROSE NEIGHBORHOOD

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a pollutant warehouse in front of our school and within the Parkrose neighborhood. Growing up right behind the Kmart for 15 years it has often felt like the city of Portland doesn't care about me, my family, or my neighbors. I already have to cross the extremely busy 122nd Street to get to school, and I hear the constant traffic coming and going on 122nd and up to Costco. When Kmart closed, we lost one of our only local grocery stores. We don't have the same kind of nice recreational facilities, shopping areas, or even sidewalks that other parts of the city have. Now as a Senior going to college next fall, I implore you to let the Parkrose Student Body K-12 continue enjoying activities that a student normally does. This proposed development poses significant risks to the health and well-being of our community and must be halted immediately.

Along with the multigenerational students and staff in the Parkrose School District, for the past year, I have been imploring our elected representatives in Oregon to stop the company PROLOGIS from building a trucking distribution center in the heart of the Parkrose Neighborhood. The placement of such a facility in close proximity to our school and residential area is alarming. Not only will it compromise the air quality in the vicinity, but it also raises serious concerns about the safety of our children and residents. Diesel Pollutants emitted from the warehouse trucks could have detrimental effects on respiratory health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly.

Parkrose is the #1 most racially diverse school in the state of Oregon, and placing a facility in a neighborhood with a diverse population raises questions about the equitable distribution of environmental burdens. Environmental racism occurs when marginalized communities, often composed of people of color, bear a disproportionate share of environmental hazards. In this case, subjecting the racially diverse Parkrose neighborhood to potential pollutants and truck traffic not only jeopardizes the health of its residents but also underscores broader systemic issues related to environmental justice.

The Parkrose neighborhood is already burdened with environmental hazards, like the airport, I-84 freeway, and other warehouses, so adding another source of pollution will only exacerbate existing inequalities and health disparities. The Parkrose neighborhood and School district will be affected by this new building if no action is taken.

The city must take decisive action to protect the health and well-being of its residents. I urge you to reconsider the approval of this project and explore alternative locations that are not in close proximity to schools and residential areas already burdened by commercial facilities.

Our community deserves better, and I trust that you will prioritize the health and safety of Parkrose residents in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,
Parkrose Student Celeste Ruiz