



4940 NE 8th Ave, Portland, OR 97211
ph. 503.208.4391
iafnw.org/macg

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Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

My name is Gillian Weisgram, and I'm here today with MACG.

In July 2015, I was evicted from my home at NE 122nd and Halsey. We had lived there for a little over two years. My husband and I shared a large one-bedroom apartment with our then two-and-a-half year old daughter.

Since we don't drive, the neighborhood was great for us - we had easy access to affordable groceries, parks, transit, clothing, and medical needs within a comfortable walking distance of about one mile. At the time we were both students at Portland Community College and I was working part-time at Albertina Kerr Centers' campus on 162nd. My commute was 20 minutes, including walking to the bus, and work was a block from the bus stop. Our rent was \$750/month.

When we were forced to move, we were given 60 days' notice. The management company said we could relocate to any open apartment in the same complex, but we no longer met their income requirements. We were unable to find an apartment in Portland, and were forced to look in Gresham.

Luckily, or unluckily as the case may be, we were able to find a landlord who had an available apartment, and had no income requirements other than that you had to have a job. We were able to move in relatively quickly. Rent was \$1200.

In order to afford our rent increase, we had to go on food stamps. Our moving costs were \$2500, which we didn't have since most of our income was financial aid. We borrowed that money from my parents, who had just moved to Portland and were trying to sell their old house, causing a financial hardship for them, as well. It took us a long time to pay it back.

Our new home is located in downtown Gresham, close to the high school. In the last year we have seen several lockouts at the school due to threats of violence. There was a stabbing recently in the only city park within walking distance. My commute to Albertina Kerr increased to thirty minutes, including a much longer walk down 162nd.

When I got my new job in downtown Portland, my commute became 45 minutes when it could have been 30 or less. My husband's commute to PCC's Sylvania campus is now longer by 30 minutes or more depending on transit. He sometimes has to take night classes that get out at 9pm and he waits for over 45 minutes downtown to get a MAX that goes past Ruby Junction. Then he's back up at six to get to school at 9am. Because there's no grocery store by our new home, we're dependent on my parents to take us shopping.

The quality of our life went down in many ways when we were evicted – longer commutes, less family time, fewer resources nearby, and overall just not being as independent as we were before. Being displaced like we were brings a lot of hardships. I urge you to adopt this ordinance to help families like mine.

