



POS a barrier to homeownership

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To the editor:

The North Metro REALTORS Association agrees with the goal of improving the Columbia Heights city housing stock. Realtors have every interest in healthy, safe, and livable properties. Our homebuyers expect no less.

The North Metro REALTORS Association is dedicated to building community. We have been doing so for over fifty years. Our office is located in Anoka County. Our agents live and work here.

We oppose point-of-sale inspections because they are ineffectual. There is no proof inspection programs improve housing stock. They do not increase or protect housing values. Home values and prices are determined by a wide range of factors, city-required inspections and mandated repairs are not among them. Clearly, inspection ordinances increase transactional costs. These costs and burdens present barriers to homeownership.

Research does support increased sales activity and foreclosure turnover rates as the best indicators of a return to housing market strength. Current market statistics show Columbia Heights is trending well above average. Even recent actions at the federal level lean towards homebuyer incentives rather than increased regulations. Bottom line, any new regulations could impede progress thus far.

We appreciate the City of Columbia Heights' efforts to address difficult real estate issues. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of the dialogue. Realtors should be called on to help the city address housing goals. Yet, we respectfully disagree that a point-of-sale ordinance achieves that goal.

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North Metro REALTORS Association

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