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To the Editor:

Regarding Council Member Kenyatta Johnson’s proposed ban on bay windows in his district, the Design Advocacy Group (DAG) suggests a more considered approach.

A better means of regulating architectural design and protecting neighborhood character already exists through the city’s Neighborhood Conservation District ordinance. In fact, the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia evaluated the suitability of designating [Point Breeze as a conservation district](http://www.preservationalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/PointBreeze.pdf) in 2012.

Such a district would evaluate bay windows, along with height, materials, rooflines and the many other design elements that define new construction.

Singling out bay windows is not a realistic tactic for preserving neighborhoods. Careful, community-based consideration of the design of infill development, along with better enforcement of existing laws so that bays (and balconies) don’t infringe on the public right-of-way, is a far more powerful tool.

Elise Vider

Chair

