

Audra K. Grant

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Good evening, my name is Audra Grant. I live on Warder Street. I am also President of the Luray-Warder Neighborhood Association, based in Park View, and co-chair of the BM-PM Steering Committee. I would like to express my support for the Bruce Monroe-Park Morton development project.

The development would fill a critical need for affordable housing of which there is a deficit in the District of Columbia. Park View, the surrounding neighborhoods and the city are growing rapidly, and the need for housing that is safe and affordable for a diverse segment of the population is critical, particularly for our neighbors who reside at Park Morton. The BM location allows Park View to welcome a wide range of families and create a vibrant, diverse community of residents, rather than segregating residents to other communities.

The current plan reflects input from the Park View community gathered over several design charrettes that were open to the public, and through orgs stakeholders on PM BM SC which have presented community questions and concerns, the SC also holds open meetings quarterly. Additionally, the proposed community benefits package, also developed in a consultative process through the Steering Committee, satisfies needs of the Park View community for a range of amenities, including increased bike shares, street-scaping and greenery around the sites, traffic calming measures, and other items. Importantly, however, the development design includes at the Bruce Monroe site, preservation and improvement of the existing park and green space, which will enjoy access from all neighbors in the Park View and nearby communities. The presence of a developed park on the Bruce Monroe site will bring a much needed aesthetic to the neighborhood and provide an even better opportunity for the park to be a focal point for community activities and recreation for all resident families.

As Georgia Avenue is on the precipice of significant development that would bring business and commerce to the lower Georgia Avenue corridor, the development effort would bring retail opportunities to the area to the benefit of residents who need access to shopping and other retail amenities. The project, in addition to providing housing, therefore, also contributes to commerce and ultimately sustainable economic growth along lower Georgia Avenue.

Everyone should have a right to housing that is safe, secure, habitable and affordable and should do so with dignity, peace and security. The plans proposed for BM fulfill these

requirements, whereas other locations do not, and would bring displacement of residents, causing loss of access to facilities and critical services that are part of residents' community social network.

I applaud residents for trying to capture viewpoints on this heated issue through the conduct of surveys. However, surveys such as the 2015 on-line survey that supposedly reflects community views on the BM preferences has dubious scientific validity: it severely under-represents Latinos (24%), African-Americans (57%), and scarcely any Park Morton residents took the survey. The questions are leading and double-barreled and has no scientific validity because there was no sample drawn. It is heavily biased towards online users some of whom don't even live in DC. Thus we don't know what community this survey represents. In closing, I do hope that moving forward the commission will act on accurate information and urge zoning commission to pass the project at BM site, which will facilitate the transformation of Park View. Thank you commissioners for your time.

Respectfully,

Audra K. Grant,