

Ward 5 Alliance for Equity
Comments in request of remedy in ZC Case No. 17-15
By Abigail DeRoberts, March 25, 2018

These comments are in regards to ZC Case No. 17-15.

We, as neighbors and residents in Ward 5, are concerned about the proposed map amendment in ZC Case 17-15. We are particularly concerned about the timing of this proposed change; the potential traffic impacts for surrounding neighborhoods; and the impacts on gentrification, land, air quality, and utilities.

The most glaring concern is the timing of the proposed map amendment—to increase construction and density as the surrounding neighborhoods are already bracing for significant amounts of development, particularly the DC Water tunnel project along Rhode Island Ave which will close multiple lanes on Rhode Island Avenue as well as 4th St NE going northbound. This is in addition to extended large construction projects like the Bryant St Project, the Edgewood Rec, and multiple smaller developments going on in the neighborhood. The cumulative impact of these developments must be considered; there will be certainly severe congestion in an already busy traffic artery. Now is not the time to add construction and density to the immediate neighborhood.

Our members in ANC 5E are just learning of this proposed map amendment—we are a mere four blocks away, around 4th and Rhode Island Ave NE. Although it is not directly in our ANC area, this magnitude of development will impact us as well. We wish we had known about this proposed map amendment earlier.

We appreciate and respect Mt. Cavalry's desire for more housing for their parishoners. We would like to know how we can ensure that this new development will include and serve those already rooted in the neighborhood, including parishoners of Mt. Cavalry and long-term members of the surrounding neighborhoods. We would also like to request a Ward 5 first-source hiring program for construction jobs, as well as any long-term jobs in the new development.