

Anthony Hood, Chairman
DC Zoning Commission

May 13, 2014

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to proposed McMillan Park PUD (Case # 13-14)

Dear Chairman Hood:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Vision McMillan Partners (VMP) first-stage consolidated PUD and the related map amendment (Case # 13-14) and to express my concern about the unacceptable negative impacts on the local community that would result from the proposed development.

I have lived in DC for more than 32 years and driven by McMillan Park many times, wishing it were a public park, open for everyone to enjoy. I've heard neighbors talk about how it was a public park many years ago.

I am very concerned about the negative impacts of the proposed development on the local community including:

- The size and scale of the development. The proposed plan is too massive and dense for this residential community and includes 13-story office buildings, which would dwarf the historic 2-3 story row houses surrounding McMillan Park and destroy its protected historic vistas, a priority of the National Capital Planning Commission.
- The dramatic increase in vehicle traffic. The applicant estimates that the proposed project would create at least 6,000 additional car trips to the McMillan Park area each day, which place an unbearable strain on our already congested streets in a neighborhood with many intersections that already receive failing grades from DDOT. This additional traffic would also increase noise and pollution, and make traveling more dangerous for people walking or on bicycles. The proposed plan fails to mitigate the gridlock traffic congestion that would result from the proposed project.
- The loss of parking spaces for community members living near McMillan Park.

This proposed plan fails to take into account the [Summary of Recommendations for Site Revitalization of McMillan Park \(DC Office of Planning, February 2002\)](#), a city-led effort to identify community priorities for the site. This study identified many of the applicant's proposed uses for McMillan Park as unacceptable including hospital/medical facilities and high-rise office and residential buildings. The current VMP plan completely disregards key recommendations of the study:

- "A minimum of 50% (approximately 12.5 Acres) of the McMillan site should be revitalized as publicly accessible open space."
- "The remainder of the site should be developed with low and moderate intensity uses."
- "Vistas from the site are significant and should be preserved in conjunction with development of public open space."
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In addition, I'm distressed to learn Victor Hoskins, director of the Deputy Mayor's Office on Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), in collaboration with Vision McMillan Partners (VMP), have both contracted with a Baltimore-based public relations firm, Fontaine & Company, to conduct a shadow PR campaign. Public documents show 'Fontaine team will execute all work on behalf of the coalition' to 'create the overall impression of local community support' of the McMillan project, to provide 'cover' for elected officials, and to 'neutralize' community members dissenting to the controversial project. (Exhibit 115 on the record; ZC Case No. 13-14). Is this even legal?

Sincerely,

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