

DC Planners Hire Out-of-State Contractor to Provide 'Political Cover to Elected Officials' and to 'Neutralize' Residents Opposed to the City's McMillan Park Plans

Washington, DC, May 7, 2014 – The DC Zoning Commission and DC Office of Planning have recently been reviewing a zoning proposal to pave over most of the McMillan-Olmsted Park, located at 1st and Michigan Streets, NE, bounded by Wards One & Five here in Washington, DC. See DC Zoning Case No. 13-14.

The proposed McMillan plans were submitted to the DC Zoning Commission earlier this year by **Victor Hoskins**, director of the **Deputy Mayor's Office on Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)** in collaboration with **Vision McMillan Partners (VMP)**, the development group formed specifically for this project and headed by international construction firm, **Trammel-Crow**.

Public documents recently entered into the McMillan zoning case show that DMPED and VMP both contracted with a Baltimore-based public relations firm, Fontaine & Company, to conduct a PR shadow campaign.

One of these documents says the, *'Fontaine team will execute all work on behalf of the coalition'* to *'create the overall impression of local community support'* of the proposed 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*

At the May 7th zoning hearing, Zoning Commissioners heard testimony from about twenty residents expressing overwhelming skepticism about DMPED/VMP's "divisive" community outreach resulting in a "bad-faith" relationship with affected neighbors, homeowners, and renters.

It's gotten so bad that a local ANC Commissioner, Mark Mueller, had enough and announced his resignation from ANC 5E citing, "... corruptions and conflicts of interest that go against ethics and laws, without accountability." * *Exhibit 111 on Record*

The DC Zoning Commission has asked the public to come testify in person at the last scheduled hearing to be held Tuesday night, May 13th starting at 6:00pm.

Hearings are held at One Judiciary Square at the DC Zoning Commission, 441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S, WDC 20001. (Redline Metro: Judiciary Square; H Street buses)

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Supporting Documents:

- **Zoning Case No. 13-14 Record :: Exhibit 115** titled, "DMPED VMP Fontaine and Company Campaign Document" :: VMP Goals, "**Provide continuous political cover to local elected officials**" :: VMP Strategy, "**Neutralize Opposition**"; See Exhibit 115 on the record for a full description of VMP goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks.
- **Zoning Case No. 13-14 Record :: Exhibit 111** :: Testimony by ANC 5E-08, Mark Mueller, noting reasons for his resignation from the ANC because of conflicts of interest and other ethical breakdowns in the McMillan project review.