

Testimony as Party to the development

Good morning/afternoon/ evening. My name is Judi Jones. Thank you for allowing me to testify before you. I was glad to get two letters in the mail about this development in the Park View/Morton area. There have been other developments claiming “matter of right” that should have communicated with the neighbors as I stated in my party status application. I would like to see the entire block enhanced by any development but this development should have a positive impact rather than detract in any way to the community. The Park View area is just beginning to re-emerge from a long history of decay. I would want the growth managed by someone who is invested in the community as well as the ANC. I want my investment enhanced by the development as well. However, if it is approved as is, I would like to advocate on behalf of my investment. The following are my recommendations given to and discussed with Mr. Khan and Cmsr Holmes:

Recommendations

- ✍ One lot = one contiguous building.
- ✍ The development applies for variances to take the roof and one side (west side) of the church to make the development one building.
- ✍ Since the church has been declared historic, the development should use brick and other material that closely matches the exterior of the church for the entire structure
- ✍ Keep church façade but move façade and new building back to create a semicircle shaped drive way to create a front driveway to reduce traffic jam on Park Road
- ✍ Underground electricity as WDC benefit
- ✍ Ground floor office/commercial space for social/church/ ministries, ANC 1A office and small meeting area
- ✍ Allowed to build 4-story building according to Takoma overlay if ground floor retail/office space
- ✍ Beautify entire alley in collaboration with 610 New Place, NW development to add value to entire community
- ✍ Publicize construction schedule especially large equipment approved by DDOT. If large equipment breaks it, repair or replace it
- ✍ Work with DDOT/WDC gov’t agencies to make alley corners more vehicle friendly
- ✍ Trash pick-up during normal commercial hours (7a-7p) weekdays
- ✍ Dedicated housing units
 - 20% workforce housing
 - 10% low income/veteran/senior housing

These recommendations are suggested as a compromise between the historic designation and the developer’s ability to build ten to fifteen more units that could be set aside for dedicated housing recommendations. I have discussed these recommendations with Mr. Khan and Commissioner Holmes on two-three occasions. Mr. Khan has said he has been dealing with this development for almost two years and doesn’t want to change the drawings again. The drawings as is do not reflect an up and coming neighborhood. This development should set a standard in the community for future developments and any housing renovations and not something just to get off of his agenda. A new development should add value. This development as designed will not add value to a community constantly distressed by social and public safety issues. This development is an opportunity to make our community viable and sought after while allowing businesses to flourish.

Thank you for allowing this testimony to be a part of the record for this development.

Yours in the community

Judi Jones