

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Katherine Raphaelson <kraphaelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ); Cevasco, Jenna (EOM)
Subject: Oppose BZA Application No 1940 – Proposed Homeless on Idaho Ave

3211 Idaho Ave NW

Washington, DC 20016

February 11, 2017

To: Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment

From: Katherine Raphaelson, owner and resident Idaho Avenue, NW

Subj: Oppose BZA Application No 1940 – Proposed Homeless on Idaho Ave

I do not think it is right for the BZA to approve the variance(s) and allow a six-story building to be put in the parking lot of the 2nd District Police Station on Idaho Avenue. I was shocked to learn about eleventh-hour changes to the project.

As I understand it the City will now:

- add a level to the parking deck that is proposed (behind the police station), making an unsightly parking deck tower above the community gardens.
- destroy the tennis courts next to the playground and use them for parking.
- remove some of the garden plots and put a road in the community garden.
- increase the budget of this inappropriate project in order to do the above and build new tennis courts after the project is over.

I vehemently oppose the zoning-change requests that would allow a six-story building to be built at the 2D police station – and allow all of this drastic change.

I am *not* opposed to the idea of smaller shelters. In fact I would support the temporary housing of homeless mothers and children in existing buildings in our neighborhood. One that comes to mind is closer to my home than this proposed project.

What I resent is the **lack of process and the attempt to rush this project thorough** and shame those in our neighborhood who simply ask for a chance for community input.

Forcing this large building into the parking lot of the police station is not the way to approach the complicated homeless challenges that we face. A six-story building and three-story parking deck, and the added disruption will destroy the pleasant neighborhood that we live in – and will very likely be an eyesore.

Again, I support the closing of DC general and support having smaller temporary homeless shelters throughout the city. I would accept and support the housing of homeless mothers and young children in an existing apartment building nearby.

But I urge you to oppose these zoning changes.