

February 26, 2017

To: Board of Zoning Adjustment

In Opposition to Case No. 19450

My name is Hilary Sills. I live at 3812 Woodley Road, N.W. I object to the way this facility has been decided upon. All the normal procedural requirements have been ignored and consultation with the community is close to non-existent. This is being forced upon the community with very little notice and a quickly called one day meeting before a vote on the next business day. The City did not consult with the ANC, as required.

The cost of the building is a scandal – it is clear the high costs are a result of a hasty decision to abandon the previously planned location. The City has not adequately examined other much lower cost options which is a disservice to the taxpayers. The size of the building and the very substantial amount of additional traffic is going to be a problem. We are already experiencing increased traffic due to the addition of Cathedral Commons.

The lack of street parking is a huge issue in this neighborhood and the City has not conducted appropriate traffic or parking studies. The city plans to reserve 60 on-street parking places for the police during a construction phase which is estimated to be 8 months. It took 9 months to construct a 20x14 addition to the back of my house. It is highly unlikely that construction can be completed in 8 months and during construction time parking in the neighborhood is going to be absolutely impossible.

It is shocking to think that the City assumes that the parents of these children will take public transportation across the city to ferry their children to and from their current day care. How can you look for a job or continue in a job with that kind of time commitment? It is a ridiculous assumption. Why are there no day care facilities planned for the homeless shelter which the city says is designed for homeless families? What services for the homeless are available in this neighborhood? Are there any?

The size of the building is clearly a problem for the neighboring houses. Zoning is put into place for a reason and this project totally violates the zoning of the area. Please turn this project down and turn the D.C. Government in the direction of finding a more suitable solution for the homeless families.

Hilary Sills