

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Erich Parker <erichsparker@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:22 PM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)
Subject: Proposed Homeless Shelter

Dear Ms. Cochran,

I am writing with regard to the proposed homeless shelter to be built near the site of the Second District police station. I own property on 39th Street, NW, at McLean Gardens . . . property I purchased as my retirement home. I plan to move in by 2018.

I am opposed to the homeless shelter for the following twelve reasons:

- (1) The city selected this site without without meaningful public input, when there were better alternatives available.
- (2) The design is too large a scale , . . and will be too densely populated . . . for the neighborhood.
- (3) The waste management plan is inadequate for the size of the shelter; it is almost certain to attract vermin.
- (4) The city has already broken its promise not to take over the community garden or tennis courts. I am tired of being lied to by government officials. This is the kind of behavior that accounts, in part, for Trump being in office. People are fed-up with a broken system that caters to special interests.
- (5) The proposed “high-volume” police road next to the gardens and the playground is a danger to gardeners and children.
- (6) The probable cost of this project (estimated at over \$30 million) makes this a lousy investment for D.C. taxpayers, when there are many other sites in the city where the cost would be much lower.
- (7) The wish of the city to have shelters in every ward has an egalitarian appeal, but there is no evidence that this shelter will be convenient to the jobs and day care needs of the shelter residents. This is forcing an ill-advised solution on a problem, where there are many much better solutions at hand.
- (8) This shelter will increase traffic in an already traffic-packed neighborhood.
- (9) The proposal to put a shelter in the Mayor’s ward was quickly voted down. This is the worst example of political NIMBY-ism. She will not be re-elected at this rate.
- (10) Many Second District police officers have privately expressed their concerns over the shelter interfering with their ability to protect our citizens.
- (11) How is the city backing up its claims that the shelter will not increase neighborhood crime? I have heard claims and seen no back-up.
- (12) This project is just one more example of city taxpayers being ignored or marginalized; there was little or no due process. And it is well understood that a big reason for this rammed-through initiative is for the city to be able to sell the D.C General property, which will generate a lot of cash . . . cash at the expense of careful consideration and due process.

Given what has transpired to date, I have no reason to believe that this letter will make any kind of difference, but I write anyway because of the sheer wrongheadedness of this project.

Sincerely,

Erich Parker

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19450
EXHIBIT NO.195

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