

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Walter Ford <walt857@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ); Cevalasco, Jenna (EOM)
Attachments: 2016-04-29-Chris-Weaver.pdf

Dear Zoning Board,

Attached, please find a letter from former Director of DGS Chris Weaver stating the Idaho Avenue site is unsuitable. This official document, along with the many points outlined in NRG's party status request, should immediately highlight the negative impact of zoning relief should it be granted. The eleventh hour notice regarding an additional level of parking, new parking lots and access paths in conjunction with this project must also be considered. The community will have zero opportunity for input before this goes in front of the Board. A request to delay the zoning hearing has also been denied, effectively silencing our right to question these last minute modifications which will still require zoning relief.

Additionally, I urge the Board to consider that while there exists a concerted effort by a consortium of religious groups to advocate for this project, they, and many of their supporters, do not live in the immediate area that will be impacted by the existence of what amounts to an extended stay boutique hotel, placed in an already congested area. While the goal of these individuals is admirable, it is the local residents who will have to contend with the problems created by the construction and operations of such a building.

I urge you to look at the human factor involved with this project. Simply pushing ahead to meet a political deadline does a great disservice to everyone involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Walter Ford / Eric Kleps
3811 Newark St NW

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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



April 29, 2016

Councilmember Mary Cheh
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Ste 108
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Ward 3 Alternative Sites

Dear Councilmember Cheh,

Thank you for your letter dated April 6, 2016, regarding alternative suggestions for Ward 3 sites with respect to the Short-Term Housing Initiative – 3320 Idaho Avenue, Northwest; 3101 Albemarle Street, Northwest; and 4100 River Road, Northwest.

The site at 3320 Idaho Avenue, Northwest, is District-owned land, but it is currently the site of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Second District Police Station, a park, and a Department of Public Works (DPW) refueling station. In order to use this site for the Ward 3 site, we would need to lease a facility to relocate the Second District, which would require additional operating dollars. Alternately, the District would either need to identify suitable District-owned land for the relocation, as well as additional capital funds in order to construct or renovate a new facility for MPD, or identify additional capital funds in order to renovate the existing MPD building to also support the Ward 3 site. There are limited capital funds available for site construction, which are already dedicated to the Wards 1, 7, and 8 sites. Finally, the loss of the park at that location may interfere with the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) master plan for park availability for this neighborhood. These complicating factors create an unknown delay and thus make this site unsuitable for our purposes.

The site at 3101 Albemarle Street, Northwest, is a former diplomatic residence. This site was considered and reviewed by the team during the property search for this initiative. Unfortunately, DGS was not able to complete a successful negotiation for this site.

The site at 4100 River Road, Northwest, the City Church, is privately owned and was not offered at the time of the open solicitation through which DGS searched for the properties responsive to the needs of the short-term family housing initiative. As such, this site could not be appropriately evaluated in terms of the likelihood of successful negotiations, schedule and availability or implication of reuse of the historic church.

We sincerely appreciate your participation in this process and willingness to engage us with additional potential sites in the Ward. Unfortunately, due to funding, availability, or other factors, these sites are not suitable for our purposes within are allotted budget and timeframe.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "W".

Christopher Weaver

Director

Department of General Services