

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Hannah Kamenetsky <hmail06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2017 1:13 PM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)
Subject: Opposition to proposed homeless shelter on Idaho Avenue

Dear Ms Cochran,

I'm writing as a property owner in the McLean Gardens condominium community to express my opposition to the proposed homeless shelter on the site of the 2nd district police station on Idaho Avenue.

While I support the policy of creating affordable long-term housing in our city, the process used by the city in this case is incompetent, secretive and lacking in fiscal responsibility. Here's why:

The DC City Council and Mayor's Office peremptorily and with no analysis or reasonable process decided to place a 186-resident shelter on the 2nd District Police Station on Idaho Avenue.

Despite the fact that the ANC voted unanimously on June 20, 2016, to object to lack of notice and to examine essential issues that needed to be addressed prior to such an important policy change (http://anc3c.org/?wpfb_dl=385), the city plowed ahead with its rash, fiscally irresponsible plan, ignoring neighbors' objections and requests for information and community inclusion.

For these reasons and many others, the Neighbors for Responsive Government brought a lawsuit against the city asserting that the shelter decision was contrary to law because it changed the use of city property in the absence of required ANC input.

The city's various zoning requests and special exception requests for the city should be denied because the proposed use is far outside what is permitted in this zone, the proposed facility is completely inconsistent with the surrounding neighborhood, and the proposed facility places two incompatible buildings on the same lot.

The Neighbors for Responsive Government have spelled out in detail compelling reasons to deny the city's requests, including jeopardy to neighborhood and citywide security by hobbling police operations.

The city has offered no justification for overriding zoning requirements and has not examined alternative sites.

The city's amended plan to add additional parking on a third story of a proposed parking deck would create an architectural monstrosity in a quiet, residential neighborhood.

Further, the proposed shelter would not meet the needs of homeless families:

- no daycare would be provided on site for small children
- no kitchens, no private bathrooms, kids would have to walk down a public hallway to access a bathroom
- public transportation to the site is sporadic

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.19450
EXHIBIT NO.71

I ask that you deny these requests for special exceptions to the current zoning laws so that this proposed city project goes back to the drawing board to receive the serious consideration it deserves - however long that takes - with the aim of including fiscal responsibility, inclusiveness and common sense in the process.

Sincerely,
Hannah Kamenetsky
owner, 3871 Porter Street, NW