

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Abigail Golden-Vazquez <abbeyny@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)
Subject: Shelter

To the Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write to you to ask for an examination of the District of Columbia's plans to erect a temporary homeless shelter, to be co-located upon property currently occupied by the Second District, Metropolitan Police Department, located at 3320 Idaho Ave, NW, 20016. Under the current plan, a six story building, designed to house as many as 200+ individuals, will be constructed in the current parking lot of the police station.

The Second District station MPD, has the largest service area of any station in the city, comprising the entire western half of the District, including the Massachusetts Avenue ("Embassy Row") corridor, including the residence of the Vice President, the National Mall, and the White House. It is the contention of the local community that the construction and eventual operations of such a structure would negatively affect the day to day operations of the Second District Station, which is charged with protecting some of the most important sites in the District.

https://mpdc.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mpdc/publication/attachments/map_24x24_2D_2014_0.pdf

Metropolitan Police Department - mpdc.dc.gov

mpdc.dc.gov

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Additionally, the District's plan for the shelter building has not, in the opinion of the local community, received the due diligence required to ensure it's success. The District's own Director of General Services deemed the proposed site as "unsuitable", during the site selection process. Disregarding this assessment, the District and Council proceeded with plans for construction. A hearing, to consider numerous exceptions to the local zoning regulations is scheduled before the District's zoning board for March 1st, 2017. The District, after hearing concerns about parking for both the proposed shelter and the 2nd District Station, has hurriedly added an additional parking deck to the plans, nearly doubling the cost of this parking structure, from 5.5 million dollars to an estimated 9.5 million. During an earlier meeting with the community about the shelter, a question was raised about the need for a building of the proposed size (6 story, accommodating 50 families), and why there could not be a few additional, but smaller shelters

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constructed? The answer was there was a finite amount of funding, and the money was not there. Now, suddenly, an additional 4 million dollars has appeared to enlarge the parking area. This raises grave concerns with myself, and many of my neighbors over the funding and oversight of this project. We do not want to see our tax dollars squandered on a poorly conceived and planned project, by a local government that has a long and dubious history of mismanagement, poor planning, and follow-through of major projects.

I ask for a thorough review & vetting of this project, both for it's impact upon the operations of the MPD 2nd District, and for it's usage of taxpayer supplied funds.

I am in favor of a shelter but not as its currently planned.

Thank you,

Abigail

Ward 3