

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: David Isaacs <david.g.isaacs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 9:08 PM
To: Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ); Cevasco, Jenna (EOM); ATD DCOZ; bza.submissions@dc.gov
Cc: all@anc3c.org
Subject: OPPOSITION to Shelter at Second District Police Station - Application 19450

I'm writing to express my opposition to the zoning variances requested by the D.C. Department of General Services for the construction of the homeless shelter at the police station on Idaho Ave. (BZA Case No. 19450). While I share the city's goal of improved services for homeless families, I oppose the city's ill-considered decision to locate the proposed shelter at the Second District Police Station.

1. Lack of analysis of alternative sites – the city selected this site in a hasty, undemocratic manner and without consideration of alternatives. As the ANC 3C stated in its resolution (ANC 3C Resolution No. 2017-007), “the unwillingness of the District to provide evidence of an exhaustive search for a shelter site” makes it impossible to assess the “reasonableness of this placement in comparison to others as required by the zoning code.” The ANC further pointed out that “DGS concluded in April 2016 that the Second District police station was not an appropriate site for a shelter,” but the city never explained why this conclusion was reversed and the site was ultimately selected.
2. Lack of neighborhood consultation – the city selected the site without any notice to the neighborhood and without any opportunity for input from the public. The failure to engage in an appropriate public process in selecting the site leads to the problems posed by this application – extremely high costs, the need for variances from zoning requirements, community opposition, opposition from the ANC, etc.
3. Extremely high cost – the city’s application would result in the shelter budgeted at approximately \$600,000 for each unit. This is an absurd price for units that do not have bathrooms or kitchens. This is an irresponsible use of public resources. The city needs to find more efficient and more effective ways of meeting the needs of homeless families
4. Impacts on police operations – to date, the city has not performed an analysis (or, at least, made such analysis available to the public) of impacts to police operations. The police were not consulted prior to the city’s selection of the site, and the community is left to guess how it may impact police operations.
5. Impact on local schools – local schools such as John Eaton Elementary were not consulted in advance of the site selection, and there has been no planning for how to accommodate the additional children, some of whom may require additional services. I have sent all three of my children to John Eaton, and the school deserves better.

ANC 3C voted to oppose the city’s application, and the BZA should give this determination great weight and deny the city's request for zoning variances.

Sincerely,

David Isaacs

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