

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Jo Knight <bluegreenjo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 10:35 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Request to postpone the zoning hearing on SIMs Zoning application 19572 (SIM Development, LLC)

Dear Members of the Zoning Board,

I am sharing my concern over the proposed design for 1916 15th Street SE developed by SIM Development. To be blunt, this design looks like a prison, and I can't even call it "prison-chic."

This design is problematic on several levels. I've already raised the issue that the additional occupancy of the building will increase the competition for street parking with the developer seeking a variance from providing the legally required number of parking spots. The design is also too big, it doesn't fit with any of the existing architecture, and it will detract from the historic feel that makes the community special.

The poor design will have other lasting effects on the future residents themselves. It's well-documented that a person's surrounding environment, including architecture, affects moods and behavior. Please read the following excerpts from a recent [BBC article](#):

"We now know, for example, that buildings and cities can [affect our mood and well-being](#), and [that specialised cells in the hippocampal region of our brains](#) are attuned to the geometry and arrangement of the spaces we inhabit."

"One of Ellard's most consistent [findings](#) is that **people are strongly affected by building façades**. If the façade is complex and interesting, it affects people in a positive way; negatively if it is simple and monotonous. [emphasis mine]"

This building defines simple and monotonous. No one deserves to come home to a building that resembles a prison.

SIM Development has not been communicating well with the community throughout the design and development process. We need time to work with developer to ensure that our community and our future residents have a new building at 1916 15th Street SE that contributes positively to our well-being. Please postpone the zoning hearing to give us the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Jo Knight

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Jo Knight
2120 14th Street SE