

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Thomas Reilly <tomreilly1634@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 7:23 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Comments in Opposition to Case No. 19689, the Meridian development proposal

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to Application #19689. The developers are obligated to show that the special exceptions they seek will not have an adverse impact on the neighboring properties. They have not, and cannot, satisfy that obligation under the current proposal.

It matters not if a person decides to exit the area via Crescent St. or Euclid St. The current amount of traffic on Euclid makes it impossible to exit onto 16th St. in a timely manner. If one opts to exit via Crescent during the AM rush hour, they will encounter a veritable parking lot. The light at 16th St. and Crescent seems to merely be a suggestion to southbound drivers on 16th St. They frequently "block the box" and ignore the yellow and part of the red traffic signals. One has to creep through the intersection and hope for the best. Turning right from Belmont onto 16th St. requires nerves of steel and a death wish. The "box" is non-existent. During the AM rush hour, it is usually just a solid three (3) lanes of traffic.

The traffic study done by the developers of 2300 16 St., when presented at a recent ANC meeting, was simply a fairy tale. It was blatantly slanted in favor of the developer and could never exist in the real world. Studies exist on Cloud 9 but traffic exists in reality.

Belmont St. is the **only** way to access Belmont, Crescent, and parts of 17th Sts. NW. The immediate area of the proposed building will add more than a significant amount of traffic entering and leaving both 2300 16th St., Beekman Place, and Meridian Crescent. Life in this area will be a living Hell during the construction period and will only be slightly modified when the building is completed. The "Law of Unintended Consequences" will have an effect on anybody living on the one-way streets when they try to enter or leave the area via car, taxi, etc.

The current residents of this area have learned over the years that MOUs with Meridian House International are frequently ignored. They treat the surrounding areas as their private albeit illegal parking lot. Any DC sign that determines parking is just something to be ignored. Event vehicles regularly block all traffic and sight lines even on 16th St.

The streets in this area of the city are the streets of a by-gone era in DC history. They were not meant to handle the current amount of traffic. They cannot handle the amount of traffic proposed with the construction of this new building.

No one can foresee the future but it doesn't take a genius to realize that it's not "if" a serious problem arises but "when." I can only hope it's not when I have to call 911 for a life-threatening situation or if emergency vehicles cannot get to a part of Belmont, Crescent, or 17th St. in a timely manner.

This project, which will add more than 110 units of residential housing and a 10,000 square foot conference

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center to our community, will create an undue burden through the influx of residential and construction-related traffic, loss of parking, and an inevitable increase in noise and congestion. Meridian International Center has long been a source of noise complaints and traffic problems and expanding its institutional use by granting its modification request will only exacerbate those problems.

This project will have a detrimental and irreversible impact on the community if it is allowed to proceed in its current form, and we therefore ask you to deny the application.

Thank you,
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