

March 28, 2006

Carol J Mitten, Chair
DC Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW Suite 210S
Washington DC 20001

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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Re: Proposed Clark High Rise for Tilden St NW

Dear Ms. Mitten:

I hope this is one of many letters your office is receiving in opposition to the high-rise building proposed for the lot on Tilden Street that is currently zoned for townhomes.

My husband and I have recently moved from Cambridge, MA to DC and are struck by the general seamlessness of buildings in this lovely historic neighborhood. Clark's last project, 3883 Connecticut, is the ghastly exception to this rule. While the other apartment buildings look appropriate on Connecticut, 3883 and the proposed new building are sorely incompatible with their surroundings. The building style and overwhelming size, as well as lack of honest address of traffic and parking concerns, are truly troubling.

In addition, I am appalled by Clark Company's general dishonesty and lack of good faith in both dealing with the community (many broken promises from the last building concerning landscaping and median strip repair as well as neighborhood amenities and complete disrespect for our concerns for the new proposal), but also with the unfortunate individuals that purchased units in 3883 (now managed by Monument) and were told (by Clark) that the building next door would be 2-story townhomes. Imagine if you had bought on the third floor of 3883 – soon you would be staring at someone's balcony instead of out into a historic neighborhood!

I honestly believe in city living – I think it makes the surrounding areas better for everyone; I detest communities of subdivisions where everyone feels entitled to their own quarter acre lot. This project however is beyond the pale in terms of its ugliness, size, incompatibility with the neighborhood and complete lack of mitigation planning for the traffic, parking and servicing concerns it will create. On the ethical side, I must also ask – how many times should our community let a company that has a overwhelming pattern of unethical business practices and disdain for the neighborhoods it affects have building permits?

Please consider our position, we are happy to have good new reasonable density neighbors but Clark is not offering us anything of the sort. They are bullies, please don't reward their disdainful and disrespectful behavior with a building that will turn our lovely leafy Rock Creek Park gateway into Porter Street or Connecticut Avenue.

Best regards,

Shannon Callahan

PLANNING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 05-26
EXHIBIT NO. 19
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