

Opening

Good evening. My name is Adam Benzing and this my fiancée Deaidra Smith. We live at 1927 Summit Pl. NE, within 200 feet of this proposed project, and St. Martin's is our parish. I have come here tonight along with other concerned members of the ECRD because we feel that a project of this magnitude requires more than simply community notification, it requires community consent and participation. What we love about our neighborhood is its diversity, and how welcoming it has been to people from all walks of life and we believe that D.C. needs more neighborhoods like ours. Neighborhoods where citizens take responsibility not just for their own well-being, but for the well-being of those around them. The ECRD was founded in this spirit, the spirit of promoting community involvement in the growth and development of our neighborhood, and as such our position is not one that should be taken lightly. Our purpose here is to ensure that *any* new project takes into account the concerns and needs of those already living in the community for the preservation of our neighborhood for years to come. Apparently contrary to popular opinion, we share in the belief that there is a need for more affordable housing in the District of Columbia (such as the admirable Hope VI programs), and so we are not against the goals of the St. Martin's Project, instead we stand in opposition to the way that the project has been planned and will be executed.

In our testimony you will hear from concerned citizens and an expert witness detailing our reasons for opposing the project as currently presented. We do not believe that the project planners have adequately considered and addressed the following areas of concern: the impact of the project on neighborhood traffic and parking, the compatibility of the project with the historical aspects of the site and this neighborhood, the appropriateness of the development with regards to the city's comprehensive plan for the neighborhood, and the possible ramifications of this type and scale of construction on the houses and streets of the neighborhood. We ask only that these concerns be heard and addressed before moving forward. Thank you.



2017 FEB 26 PM 4:10

D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.05-39
EXHIBIT NO.69A1