



FIFTH DISTRICT
POLICE
SD
CITIZENS
ADVISORY
COUNCIL

FIFTH DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 90436, Washington, DC 20090
5dcac.org



Jennifer A. J. Greene
Commander
MPD Fifth District

July 27, 2006

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D.C. Zoning Commission
Suite 210
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Members of the Commission:

The MPD Fifth District Citizens Advisory Council, Inc. (5D CAC) is under the co-leadership of Fifth District Commander Jennifer A.J. Greene, and myself as chair, along with the Council itself. As with the other 6 police district councils, 5D CAC is a confederation of Police Service Areas (PSAs). In the Fifth District there are 5 PSAs (501-505).

The CAC, inasmuch as it is concerned with public safety perspective of all proposed development projects, supports this development seeing that its design current design and height is more in keeping with the wishes of the surrounding community and that the economic benefits it can generate are expected to have an overall improvement of the character of this intersection. However, the development does have future public safety implications.

The development that is taking place at Florida Avenue and North Capitol Streets, NW is located in one of the largest Police Service Areas in the city. This location represents particular social and public safety challenges. It has one of the densest daytime populations, not in terms of businessmen and women in three-piece suits but of clients of service providers and businesses that cater to lower income residents, as well as motorists who use the two main arterials as gateway routes in and out of the city. Among the institutions and establishments that service the area are: the DC Department Of Health Addiction Prevention And Recovery Administration (APRA), So Others Might Eat (SOME), Emery Shelter, liquor stores, gas stations, carry out food establishments, curbside food providers for the homeless and undernourished, area parks where adults congregate between feeding hours. The area has also been home to persistent drug activity and is a strategic location in area hotspots.

Add to the mix middle and upper middle class residents, the advent of sit-down restaurants, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) building and other impending development in Eckington and you have a recipe for a haphazard experiment in social integration. The point here is that just because development takes place in a traditionally unutilized area doesn't mean that the vision of local community groups and the future residents of the development will simply fall into place.

All of these factors have serious public safety implications, which is why the CAC needs to be involved in this process. PSA 501, which has police and civilian facilitators and which meets every month to try to address focused problems, with possible solutions and maintenance of successes. However, the PSA structure does not have a rigorous organizational structure, or the means for handling funds, nor a committee structure that is capable of organizing the time and expertise of community participants in an efficient way. Should this Planned Unit Development and Rezoning Application be approved, it is

ZONING COMMISSION
ZONING COMMISSION
CASE No. 06-05
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 06-04
EXHIBIT NO. 46

Incumbent on the local stakeholders, including the future residents of the development, to look at the public safety ramifications of increased population density, to anticipate potential issues that may arise and determine how police, fire and other resources can best be deployed to meet these future needs.

Because the amenities package in question concerns a persistent problem area in Police Service Area (PSA) 501, the Fifth District Citizens Advisory Council, Inc. proposes the following initiatives that will focus largely on this area:

1) The commissioning of a study of the Florida Avenue/North Capitol Street Corridor in the immediate vicinity that will examine the public safety impact of increased development in the area and to propose suggestions as to how additional density can be accommodated. The study may include but is not limited to:

- Concentration of service providers in the area and how they may affect and interact with increased density
- Geographic configuration, lighting patterns, traffic as they relate to public safety
- Infrastructural issues
- Kind and quality of public transportation servicing the area and attendant safety requirements
- Police staffing and deployment requirements, i.e. foot, bike patrols
- Other issues as they arise

It is hoped that community stakeholders, city agencies and area business, and MPD will provide input to include but not limited to description and inventory of area assets, socio-economic factors, research into best practices of mixed-income areas, as well as ways to promote the smooth integration of the development project into the community. The work product is intended to be a report containing its findings.

2) Block Captain Pilot program. This program which has been created and planned out but which has not ramped up to its full potential as yet, can be remapped, reenergized and redeployed in and around the target area and will take into account the needs of increased density. Streamlined ways of disseminating information, including communications strategies, walking patrols, phone trees, etc. will be envisaged. Because this program includes an emergency preparedness component, supplies and organizational support may be needed to coordinate and manage activities to increase public safety.

3) Sponsoring of public safety awareness programs, youth-related events and community-police liaison activities with area residents, community groups and local schools.

Arthur Slater, Chair
[signed]
Fifth District Citizens Advisory Council