

Zoning Commission Rm 200-S

**Testimony on Plan Unit Development
CASE #07-27 St. Pauls College/EYA**

July 17, 2008

As I, Deborah L. Smith, appear here before the Zoning Commission's Chair and members, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my input on the proposed plan unit development; known as 07-27 St. Pauls College.

As a resident who is less than 100 feet away from this development, a lifelong resident of this affected community by this development, and a prior 5 term Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in which this development is being proposed, ANC 5C-09, I am providing the following testimony.

St. Pauls College has been and still remains a great institution of solid religious foundation and favorable character inter-woven into the Edgewood Community. They have always assisted in the needs of the immediate surrounding community even though they have been hit with thefts and economic struggles of their own. I cannot find any reason why this development should not happen at some point in time however given the atmosphere of the community surrounding this project with the fact that a meeting has not yet happen to get the community's input on the amenities package, even though the Ward Councilmember has inserted his own pet projects, the incentive package that the developers want to offer, in its current status is flawed.

The traffic options are still a sticking point to the majority of residents who have participated and understand the depth of the project and what is actually happening to their quaint community. With the current proposal, the area residents will have to deal with additional increase in traffic onto 7th Street by way of Jackson Street NE which will be the egress/regress point of this development. With the additional proposed developments to occur in the next several years surrounding this PUD, that are within a 1 to 2 mile radius, the proposed traffic outlay needs to be re-evaluated to accommodate the influx of new and existing

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vehicular traffic, regardless of how stagnant, since it will dramatically affect the quality of life for the residents in that immediate area.

Community benefits have not been given the just due of process as it relates to the immediate communities needs. Even though some benefits are being proposed, for the most part, they are projects that support the portfolio of our Councilmember and not the community. The current package has not address, nor provides, the immediate community organizations that will be directly affected by this project any support even though there is a certainty that this newly proposed housing development with its new residents and guest will at some point and time have a need to use or have access to these community entities.

Dance Place; Beacon House (Falcon football team); H.E.L.P. and the Edgewood Civic Association, are all non profits in our immediate community that have not been identified in the amenities package, including, the newly re-built Edgewood recreation center. It comes as no surprise that our economy has taken a down turn which in fact, affects the functionality of our non profits who serve our neediest residents- Children and seniors. There is no reason why each one of these organization should not receive at least \$75,000.00 each to assist with their operational cost. This will allow each one of these organization an opportunity to get additional funding through match dollar grants increasing their ability to serve our community needs.

In addition, the current amenities package calls for improvements to be made to Shaed Elementary School. While this is important, the City Council is addressing this issue with their current approval of \$121,000,000, for improvements to all school. So this part of the package has been addressed.

The triangle park - which has been listed; falls under the Department of Parks and Recreation. The current plan makes astonishing improvements that are warranted but needs to be tweaked. While this is DC government property, DC Parks and Recreation needs to be a partner in this initiative since this plan only call for one year of maintenance after the improvement have been made. There is a direct need to increase the maintenance of this park once the improvements are made. Since all too often projects like this start out beautiful, but end up in

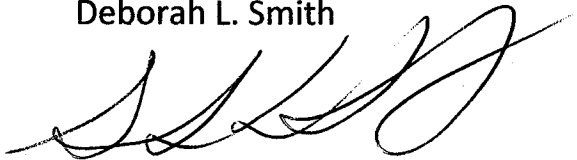
disaster because there is no continuity to maintain the area. However, knowing the community as I do, this will increase participation in that area as well as, the life and enjoyment of the nearby residents and visitors alike. In conclusion, it is imperative that this board understand the importance of the community that is being affected by this project and request that they be given the chance to weigh in.

As a small note: It has been said that even though flyers were circulated to the area residents, the flyer does not depict enough information that will inform the community of the impact it will have on the surrounding area so adjustment need to be made accordingly.

This concludes my testimony; if there are any questions that need to be address, I am will to do so at this time.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you on this great project,

Deborah L. Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. L. Smith', written in a cursive style.