

**Zoning Commission Rm 200-S****Testimony on Plan Unit Development  
CASE #07-27 St. Pauls College/EYA**RECEIVED  
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As I, Deborah L. Smith, provide written testimony before the Zoning Commission's Chair and members, I thank you again for allowing this record to remain open for addition comments relating to the proposed plan unit development; known as 07-27 EYA/St. Pauls College.

Mr. Jack Lester, a EYA's representative and who made presentations at all Single Member District (SMD) 5C09 as well as, Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings was allowed to provide a rebuttal towards comments that were made by the community regarding this project. I now, as a prior 5 term Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in which this development is being proposed, ANC 5C-09, and who was present at the hearing until the end would like the following added to the record as my rebuttal to, Mr. Jack Lester's responses.- paraphrasing.

Mr. Jack Lester commented that "the Ward 5 Councilmember" had not given his input or persuaded the decision making process of the Communities Amenities package for this project. Even though, throughout all presentations made before the ANC Commission's monthly meeting; or during a SMD 5C09 meeting; including the zoning hearing on July 17, 2008; he made several inferences to the fact of meeting and discussing with the Ward 5 Councilmember, Harry Thomas Jr, and the current ANC 5C09 Commissioner, Silas Grant Jr. about the project's Community Amenities package. Please note: The written letter from the ANC 5C Commission reflects the lack of community input relating to this package. Therefore, providing a clear understanding of who provided the actual input.

Next – Jack Lester commented that "there was not a consideration given to extend a pathway from this project into the existing roadway of the US Conference of Bishop's because of the mature trees". Given the fact that at one SMD meeting Jack, during his presentations, tried to expand the current roadway

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that leads up to St. Pauls College, from 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE. This would have destroyed quite a few mature trees notwithstanding the integrity and individuality of St. Paul's College. This dialogue was discontinued at the behest and presence of Ms. Charlene Reed, Ward 5 DDOT representative, who "pressed" Jack to move pass that issue since the community expressed their opposition of having that part of St. Paul's property touched.

Next- Jack Lester commented about the current renovations that were being made to Shaed Elementary School through their funding efforts. It has been well documented by the educational community as well as DCPS that "open space learning environments" have been deemed unproductive for educational learning. Thus, it was presumptive of EYA to start any work and provide any funding to this school and having it identified as an item from the community amenities package without understanding the community's true scope of their needs and desires with finality.

Next – Jack Lester commented about the enhancement of the triangle park that is adjacent to the Edgewood Playground. He stated that their company has partnered with DC Parks and Recreation to refurbish that area of land including, the recommendation by DC Parks and Recreation to provide maintenance for this park, once completed, for one year. A recommendation infers, "at least provide". This community needs more of a lasting commitment from EYA, at least an additional five (5) years to maintain this park to the extent of sustainability. Furthermore, a memorandum of understand (MOU) that states the above, and to establish a continue maintenance program for this park for its life duration with DC Parks and Recreation will provide the agility needed for this endeavor. Therefore, the DC Council's Chairperson of DC Parks and Recreation should "allocate permanent funding" towards this effort.

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Henceforth, the traffic issue is still a sticking point with the majority of residents who have participated and understand the depth of the project. Since a saturation of "new development projects" are being proposed and will certainly occur within a five (5) mile radius within the next 10 years, including this one. It would be in the best interest of the community at large that the Advisory

Neighborhood Commission 5C (ANC5C) provide the community with an independent traffic study since the data used in EYA's traffic study is outdated by eight (8) years and does not provide the community with a level of comfort needed to give their stamp of acceptance.


The amenities package is commended for having the scholarship initiative. Henceforth, EYA should provide, after initial funding, directed to the 501(c)3 who will be responsible for administering funding, an additional amount of seven-thousand (\$7,000.00) yearly up to five years. This would have a "true funding impact" on the scholarship total funding contribution from EYA then being Eighty-thousand dollars (\$80,000.00). Providing more opportunities to our neighborhood struggling youths whose needs for education is always underfunded.

There was no mention of the Edgewood Recreation Center that will be rebuilt in the coming years. The FY 2009 Budget has allocated- \$500,000, towards this effort. EYA's contribution towards our new center should be at least \$450,000. Having this allocation of funds directed to "inside building uses", Such as: TV; Computers; games; Video equipment; indoor athletic equipment; glass casing for memorabilia.....

This concludes this written testimony as always,

Thank you for accepting this written testimony regarding this exceptional and welcomed housing development project.

Best Regards,



Deborah L. Smith,

***Prior ANC Commissioner, 5C09***