

DEPT. OF ZONING

February 10, 2009

2009 FEB 10 PM 3:33

Anthony Hood
Chairman, Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW Suite 210S
Washington, D.C. 20001
Fax (202) 727-6072
Re: ZC Case Number 08-15

Dear Mr. Hood,

I am a resident of McLean Gardens / Vaughan Place and have serious concerns about the planned Giant Supermarket development.

While I understand and support the idea behind revitalizing the area – improving the Giant and surrounding retail space on both blocks – I am firmly against the proposal to put in taller buildings and more residential units that would further obstruct the beautiful views of the Cathedral that make the area so special.

First, the plan cites the height of the large apartment buildings on the opposite side of Wisconsin Ave as a reason to create higher buildings on the Giant side of Wisconsin but I know most residents of the area agree that the high-rises across from the Giant are eyesores that obstruct the wonderful views that make the area so unique; if given the chance to vote today, I doubt any of those buildings would have been built. Put simply: increasing the number of high rises in the area is destructive an unnecessary development.

Second, as the McLean Gardens / Vaughan Place developers learned a few years back – even at the height of the real estate market – there is simply not the demand for the kind of residential units this new plan proposes. Now that we are in a recession, how can these new developers expect there to be more demand than when our economy was robust?

Third, putting a two way street and traffic light on what is currently the corner of Idaho and Wisconsin (a one-way street) will greatly increase the volume of traffic that goes through what is currently a quiet, residential neighborhood.

Limited, responsible development to improve a community makes sense; installing high rises that would increase traffic problems, crowd quiet residential neighborhoods, flood the area with residential units in the midst of a recession, and obstruct the views that make our area so special, does not.

Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,



Ashley Vanarsdall
3401 38th St NW #411, Washington, DC 20016

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 08-15

EXHIBIT NO. 121