

Claire Bloch
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Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of the Giant PUD April 23, 2009

Chairman Hood and Commissioners,

My name is Claire Bloch and I live less than 2 blocks from the proposed redevelopment of Giant. I am very supportive of the PUD before you tonight and I want to convey what I think are a few important and relevant facts surrounding this project and the neighborhood sentiment.

First, though there are many parties in opposition, there are not many citizens who oppose this project. As Councilmember Cheh testified before this commission, the overwhelming sentiment in Cleveland Park and in fact the Ward, is that citizens want transit oriented, smart development. The project being proposed by Giant is a wonderful example of the kind of mixed-use development that my neighbors and I want to see.

As you have heard tonight, AWARE was formed to give voice to the silent majority. Hundreds of members have joined AWARE with the single intent to support this project. I think AWARE has been a great success, and I am proud to be a member of this group. I am very familiar with the entitlement process in the District of Columbia, and I have to say, this is the first time I have ever seen a citizen group form to vehemently support a development. I hope you look at this rare example of positive community involvement as an indicator of how strongly the citizens want this project to be approved and built.

"The citizens," you might wonder....aren't they represented by the Cleveland Park Citizens' Association? In fact, most of us are not. Sadly, that group's membership appears to be largely comprised of people who fight everything—NIMBY's some

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might call them. But perhaps more relevant is their paltry numbers. The vote to oppose this PUD was taken on February 15 and only 36 members voted on the resolution. Does that represent the will of the community?

Along with the vibrant new citizens group AWARE, there are other indicators of the strong support for the Giant PUD. One example is the poll that was done on the Cleveland Park listserv in November 2008. Out of the 265 people who responded, 94 percent wanted either the proposed PUD or a modified PUD.

Finally, as you have heard, the ANC, the Ward Councilmember, and countless citizens want to see this project approved and built. I urge you to consider the facts before you, consider the enormous support this development has, and approve this PUD as soon as possible.

Thank you.

From the Cleveland Park Listserv – November 2008

Question

How do you feel about the planned Giant development at Wisconsin and Newark, which includes a larger supermarket, and a residential, office and retail complex? For more information about the project visit Giant's website at <http://www.wisconsinavegiant.com>, read the ANC's resolution of support with conditions at <http://tinyurl.com/dmsfuw>, and see the current issue of the Northwest Current. The question of how the Giant supermarket figures into the neighborhood has been an issue on the Listserv since 2004, and it may finally be resolved by the Zoning Commission.

Responses

Choices	#Votes	%Reply
Build it already! I support the Giant's development proposal as is	205	77
Build it but with conditions: I support part of or all of the ANC's resolution http://tinyurl.com/dmsfuw .	44	16
This isn't good for the neighborhood: I oppose the Giant's development proposal.	16	6