

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Borany Penh <neenp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2024 12:59 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Ref: Written Testimony in Opposition” Case 21177

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Borany Penh and I have lived at 407 M St. NW for almost 20 years. I urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to deny the special exception relief sought by the District of Columbia Department of General Services for the proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Ave NW.

The construction of the Central Cell Block, necessitating special exception relief, will detrimentally, adversely, and significantly impact the neighboring properties in direct violation of the Zoning Regulations and Maps. The substantial increase in cells and detainees will lead to heightened traffic, noise, and security concerns, including, but not limited to: - Disruptions from the facility's 24/7 operations due to six police forces transporting detainees to the facility. - Noise pollution from potentially over eighty detainees and from increased activity at the building. - Increased traffic from police, employees, vendors, etc., leading to congestion. - Safety risks associated with the potential release of detainees into the community -most notably to the community organizations and business that cater to children.

The facility's location across the street from Bambini Child Care Center is creating extensive stress for parents and staff. The proposed cellblock is also just feet from residential property. The proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Avenue, N.W., will have a direct, significant, and adverse effect on the residents, business owners, and community organizations nearby.

My neighborhood has dramatically changed over decades from a state of neglect, characterized by parking lots and dilapidated houses, to a vibrant area with mixed-use residential developments and a community that wants to make it even more so. This Project should not be allowed to reverse this hard-fought progress and DGS should find a more appropriate location that does not undermine an entire community's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

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