

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Brandon Pizzola <bpizzola@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2024 2:15 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Written Testimony in Opposition Case 21177

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Brandon Pizzola, and I am a resident at 1334 5th Street NW. I am writing to express my deep concern about and opposition to the Board of Zoning Adjustment granting 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.

As a lifelong resident of the area and someone who has witnessed the growth and positive changes in our neighborhood over the years, the thought of placing a jail so close to our homes, businesses, and schools is troubling, to say the least. The idea of this facility being inserted into the heart of our community raises several red flags for me and many of my neighbors.

First, the nonstop operations of this facility, with detainees being transported in and out by multiple police forces, will disrupt the peace and quiet we’ve all worked hard to establish here. The potential noise pollution, with potentially more than eighty detainees at any given time, isn’t just an inconvenience—it’s a significant deterioration of our quality of life.

Moreover, the increased traffic from police vehicles, staff, and vendors will add a heavy burden to our already busy streets, making it harder for residents to commute and for businesses to operate smoothly. But perhaps the most worrying aspect is the safety risk posed by the proximity of this facility to our residences. The idea that detainees could be released just a stone’s throw away from where our children play is genuinely alarming.

Our neighborhood has come a long way and allowing this project to move forward would undo much of that progress, undermining the sense of community we’ve all worked so hard to build.

The proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Avenue NW will have a direct, significant, and adverse effect on nearby residents, business owners, and community organizations. I sincerely urge you to deny the special exception relief. I believe there must be a more suitable location that doesn’t carry such severe negative consequences for our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Best regards,

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