

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Daysi Gonzalez <dgonzalez@elmecommunities.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 10:02 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dgonzalez@elmecommunities.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The nature of the document is -Written Testimony in Opposition Case 21177

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is **Daysi Gonzalez**, and I reside/have a business at **443 New York Ave NW Washington DC 20001**. 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:

- Residents are worried about continuing to live in this area due to safety concerns, particularly with the increase in crime following the release of detainees. These individuals often resort to breaking into cars and committing robberies, as they are released without money, leading to desperate behavior that contributes to crime.
- 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 proximity to Bambini Child Care Center is causing great distress among 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. This neighborhood has undergone transformation over decades from a state of neglect, characterized by parking lots and dilapidated houses, to a vibrant area with mixed-use residential developments. We are asking that this Project not be allowed to undo that progress and that DGS be directed to find a more appropriate and less impactful location.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daysi Gonzalez

Daysi Gonzalez

Community Manager
Yale West

o 202-652-2935 | dgonzalez@elmecommunities.com

