

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: David Painter <dpainter.dp@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 5:01 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Nigro, Rachelle (SMD 2G06)
Subject: Case 21177: District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Written Testimony in Opposition regarding Case 21177

From: David Painter
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Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is David Painter and I reside at 437 New York Ave. NW, apartment 602. I urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to deny the special exception relief sought by the DC 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 round-the clock activity at the building.
- Increased vehicular traffic from police, employees, vendors, etc., leading to congestion.
- Safety risks associated with the potential release of detainees into my highly residential neighborhood.

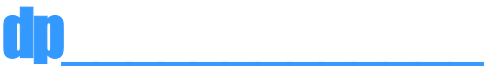
I am especially concerned about the impact on organizations and businesses in my neighborhood that cater to children. I have been told that the facility's proximity to Bambini Child Care Center is causing great distress among parents and staff. The proposed Central Cell Block is also just feet from residential property which would not seem to be a reasonable land use in such a residential area.

It is my considered opinion that the proposed relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Avenue, N.W. (which may or may not actually be temporary), will have a direct, significant, and adverse effect on the residents, business owners, and community organizations nearby. My neighborhood has undergone a significant transformation over the 14 years I have lived here. The neighborhood has gone from a state of neglect, characterized by parking lots and dilapidated houses, to a vibrant area with mixed-use residential developments. My neighbors and I 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.

I note that the former DC Recorder of Deeds building (also a property of the DC government) is much more appropriately located at 515 D Street, NW which is directly across the street from the Courthouse. This building was the home of the Recorder of Deeds Office for over 60 years, but the office moved out in 2008 and the building has since been used only for storage. Given the institutional and commercial nature of the neighborhood surrounding 515 D Street NW, it would be far more suitable for the DC Government to locate the "temporary" Central Cell Block there than in my far more residential neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David Painter



David Painter

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