

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

**From:** Howard Garrett <hgarrett4dc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 6, 2024 11:08 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Cc:** Nigro, Rachelle (SMD 2G06)  
**Subject:** Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Howard Garrett, and I reside at 618 T St NW, Washington, DC, 20001. I strongly urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to reject the special exception relief requested 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 would require special exception relief and would significantly harm the neighboring properties, directly violating the Zoning Regulations and Maps. The substantial increase in cells and detainees would 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 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, especially for community organizations and businesses catering to children . The facility's proximity to Bambini Child Care Center is causing great distress among parents and staff. The proposed cell block is also just feet from residential property.

The proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Avenue, N.W., will directly, significantly, and adversely affect nearby residents, business owners, and community organizations. Over decades, this neighborhood has transformed from neglect, characterized by parking lots and dilapidated houses, to a vibrant area with mixed-use residential developments. We ask 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 appreciate your consideration,

Howard Garrett  
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