

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Nicole Shea <nicole@nicoleshea.com>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 10:02 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 Nicole Shea and I live at 1605 5th ST NW in DC’s Shaw neighborhood.

I am requesting in the strongest terms possible that the Board of Zoning Adjustment 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 be a detriment to our wonderful community and make our Shaw less safe. It 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.
 - Slower response times to and less police coverage/ availability to our residents for any issues that arise in our community outside of issues with the jail
 - Increased traffic and emergency vehicles to and from Howard Hospital on New Jersey Avenue which is already suffering from slower transit times for emergency vehicle needs
- 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.

Shaw residents have worked hard to improve our community and make it what it is today. We have struggled with deteriorating city services and response in the years since the pandemic started and have been able to overcome much of that and start to improve things again. Putting this jail in our community is wrong and the behind-closed-doors process by which this effort began was wrong. We deserve a say in what goes on in our community and we do not want this jail here. We deserve safety. We deserve respect. We deserve to have a say. We say NO CENTRAL CELL BLOCK AT 501 New York Avenue NW.

Please listen to our community. Please allow us to have a say in what happens in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Shea

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.21177
EXHIBIT NO.130

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