

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Eric Peters <peters.eric.r@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 8:26 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Eric Peters and I reside at 436 M Street NW. 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:

- Disruptions from the facility's 24/7 operations due to six police forces transporting detainees to the facility.
- Traffic in this area is notoriously bad for a majority of the day - backups in both directions of NY Ave NW between 4th and 7th are constant, as are K and M Streets. A busy 24/7 processing center can only make this much worse, causing more aggravation for commuters, and more dangerous pedestrian conditions for residents. Having lived here for 15 years, I know that building is rarely used so any activity will immediately increase traffic and congestion.
- Noise pollution from potentially over eighty detainees and from increased activity at the building.
- you're going to release detainees, a significant number who are actual criminals who don't get papered by our beleaguered prosecutor's office, into a NEIGHBORHOOD of rowhouses and small apartment buildings north of NY Ave NW.

There are other buildings closer to, and within, Judiciary Square, that logistically are far better solutions.

The proposed temporary relocation of the Central Cell Block to 501 New York Avenue, NW, 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. I am 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.

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