

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Jacob Kincer <jakekincer@gmail.com>
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To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case 21177 District of Columbia Department of General Services

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Written Testimony in Opposition – Case 21177

Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

My name is Jake Kincer and I am a permanent resident at 1127 6th Street NW. I am writing to 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 adversely 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.
- 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 30 feet from residential property.

Frankly, I may have been in favor of supporting a special exemption to this zoning regulation if the Department of Corrections or Department of General Services had engaged the community about potential concerns. I general, I am open to the idea that zoning regulations should be updated to reflect the needs of the community.

To date, I am aware of one single ANC event they attended. At this event, they were unable to provide basic answers regarding average use of the facility, specific timelines and funding for replacement, and commitments around noise and traffic.

They claimed to have done a study on traffic in the area, but would not provide the results of this study. They claimed other locations were not suitable but would not provide reasoning why or how that determination was made.

To grant a special exemption, I believe they must prove that this will not have a direct, significant, and adverse impact on the community. **Not only have they not proven this, but they have not even attempted to prove it.** The lawyer who attended the ANC meeting became increasingly frustrated with repeated questions despite refusing to provide any answers.

Considering these facts, there should be no special exemption provided from these zoning laws.

Thank you for your consideration.

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