

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Afton Cissell <afton.m.cissell@gmail.com>
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Dear Chairman Hill and Board Members,

I offer the following written testimony in opposition of Case 21177.

My name is Afton Cissell and I reside at the Madison Victorian Apartments at 517 L St NW. As a resident living directly across the street from the proposed relocation of Central Cell Block to 501 New York Ave NW, I strongly urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to deny the special exception relief sought by the District of Columbia Department of General Services. As a young, single woman living in front of the building, I am deeply concerned about my personal safety, the security of my apartment and vehicle, which I park around the corner on 6th St NW, and the safety and security of residents and businesses in the surrounding area. I would not feel comfortable leaving my apartment and immediately encountering people being booked or released from the cell block.

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 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 -most notably to the community organizations and businesses 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, where I reside, and near multiple churches where people from the neighborhood and around the DMV congregate every Sunday.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Afton Cissell
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